



## Vietnam Missionary Urges Ministry To Refugees

RICHMOND (BP) — It is up to Christians in America to complete the ministry and witness to refugees which the missionaries in Vietnam and Guam have only begun, according to two Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from Vietnam.

"Much of the soil of the Vietnamese hearts is already prepared for the reception of the Word of God. The spirit with which Americans receive these refugees will determine — to a great extent — the Vietnamese people's response to the gospel message," said William T. Roberson, who has been working in Guam following his evacuation.

Stressing the importance of the written word, Roberson told of the 10,000 copies of the Gospel of John which had been hastily printed in the Vietnamese language and distributed on Guam.

"The gospel has been received by the sick and the well as if it were the last book they would ever be able to read in Viet-

namese." He said many were so eager to have the book they offered to buy a copy from others who had received two copies.

"Not only in their hunger to read Vietnamese, but also in their mental and emotional turmoil, they are 'receptive to the message of Christ's love,'" Roberson said.

"Isolation, loneliness and abandonment were the everyday problems confronting increased numbers of the refugees," he continued.

### Fresh Opportunity

"Southern Baptist churches have a fresh opportunity to witness to a transplanted mission field."

He added that churches can organize English classes, Bible classes, and help the people find a home and a job.

James H. Lassiter, another missionary who worked in Guam following his evacuation from Vietnam, now assisting refugees at Camp Pendleton, Calif., agreed that helping a family become

settled and begin work is one of the best ministries an individual group can provide.

"People need to realize that the Vietnamese people want to be on their own," he said. "It is not their desire to be dependent on anyone. They want to get a job. Anyone who's not going to help them do this is going to be doing them as much harm as good.

"They don't need a sponsor

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## Convention President Challenges Mississippi Baptists To Help

By James Richardson, President Mississippi Baptist Convention

A visit to a Vietnamese refugee camp is a moving experience. Rodney Webb, Paul Vanderhook, and I visited the center at Eglin Air Force Base, one of the four such camps in the United States. As we walked, and looked, I kept hearing Him say it again, "I was hungry and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, I was a stranger and you took me in."

I was amazed at the order, the patience and the general air of optimism which we saw there.

Beautiful children: Stole old people; energetic, friendly teenagers; professional people; and many many others, and all appeared to me to be waiting patiently for something good to happen to them. That something good is involved with the eight resettlement agencies which the government has authorized to find sponsors for families and individuals.

uials.

Lewis Myers, a Mississippian who has been a missionary to Vietnam for about 15 years, is working as a Southern Baptist Convention representative under Church World Service as our liaison man, a counselor to the Vietnamese and a missionary still. It is his dream, and mine, that many Mississippi Baptists and Baptist churches will hold out a helping hand to these people. It is a thrilling opportunity.

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## Did You Know This About Mississippi Baptists?

1. In 1974 — We baptized 16,674 — We buried 4,230 — We increased resident membership 6,426 — We put 3,802 on Non-Resident status and lost somewhere 2,216.
2. In 1974 we ended with:
  - A. 420,884 resident members
  - B. 160,008 Non-resident members
  - C. 131,500 Resident family units and
  - D. 50,000 Non-resident family units.
3. We frequently hear that one in every two marriages ends in divorce. In 1973, there were approximately 699,000 white family units in Mississippi. If the above statement were true and applied to Baptists, we would have had 65,750 divorces — which did not happen! Actually there were approximately 10,787 divorces for the state.

In Mississippi Baptist life, there were 131,500 family units in 1973 of which, conservatively speaking and based on white divorces of 8,138 in the state of Mississippi, only 2,306 Mississippi Baptist families were affected by divorce.

—A. L. Nelson

## Seminary Plans Under Way For Doctoral Seminars In Jackson

Preliminary plans are under way for doctor of ministry seminars to be offered in the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The first seminar probably will be offered in the fall of 1975, according to a seminary spokesman.

These seminars would be led by professors from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Credit would be given by the seminary toward a doctor of ministry degree.

Dr. Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, and Dr. Bradford Curry, director of the doctor of ministry program there, were in Jackson to help in formulating plans for the semi-

nars. They met with Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Dr. Foy Rogers, director of the board's Department of Cooperative Missions; and Therman Bryant, associate in the Cooperative Missions Department and the In-Service Guidance director for the state.

"We are looking for people who have been in the ministry for several years following their basic seminary training and feel the need to sharpen their skills now," Dr. Curry said.

Requirements for participating in the doctor of ministry Degree program would be the

three-year basic seminary course with a B average from an accredited seminary, including four semester hours each of Hebrew and Greek, Dr. Curry indicated. In addition an acceptable score is required on the Graduate Record Examination.

"This approach fits in with the approach of the day in continuing education," Dr. Leavell added.

Participants in the doctor of ministry program will be required to take two seminars over a period of two semesters. Each seminar will involve eight sessions of four hours each on two Mondays per month.

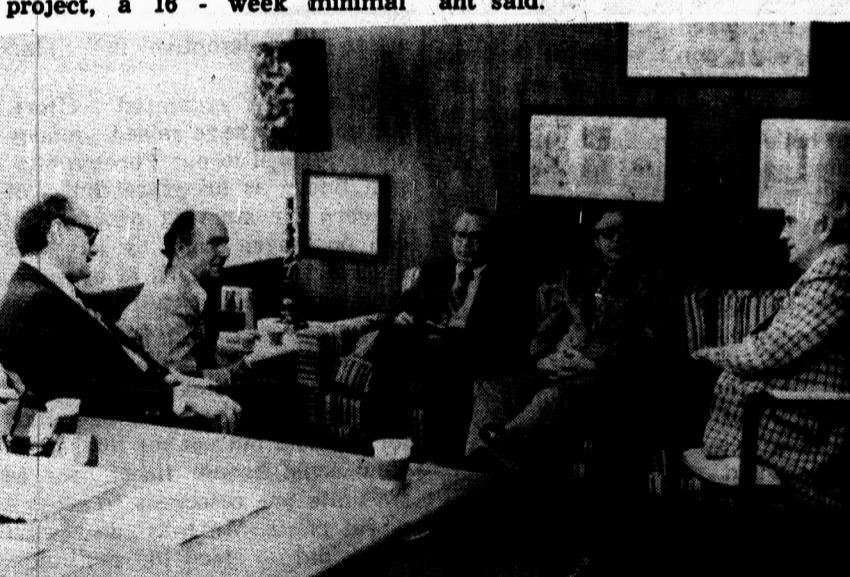
In addition to the seminar requirements, each person will be required to take a course in Research Techniques and Project Writing and a colloquium. Each of these will be of two week's duration and will be offered on campus during each January and July interterm. Other components in the doctor of ministry program include a field project, a written report on this project, a 16-week minimal period of supervision, and an oral examination.

Professors will be provided by the seminary on the basis of the need. The first field of study probably will be the pastoral ministry in the areas of preaching and worship.

Each program should take from 15 to 24 months, Bryant indicated. If the interest is sufficient the seminar will be repeated, he said. In fact, he declared, it will continue as long as there is interest.

Dr. Kelly expressed his appreciation for such a program being made available to Mississippians through the facilities of the Baptist Building. "I hope the interest is high enough that the seminar program can continue indefinitely," he said.

Those who are interested in such a program should get in touch with Mr. Therman Bryant, Box 530, Jackson, Ms. 39205. A meeting with Dr. Curry will be arranged at the Baptist Building to establish the time of the seminar and other particulars, Bryant said.



Making plans for a doctor of ministry seminar program in the Baptist Building in Jackson are officials of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and New Orleans Seminary. Left to right are Dr. Earl Kelly, Dr. Bradford Curry, Therman Bryant, Dr. Foy Rogers, and Dr. Landrum Leavell.

## SBC Convention Sermon

## Mighty Deed With Meager Resources

by Jimmy R. Allen  
Pastor, First Baptist Church,  
San Antonio, Texas

A condensation of an address scheduled for delivery at the Southern Baptist Convention on Wednesday morning.

Scripture: John 6: 1-14

Introduction: A great American Philosopher, Mr. Walt Kelly, draws the comic strip, Pogo. In it he has the little possum saying to his fellow creatures of the swamp, "The only trouble with our country is that we are surrounded with insurmountable opportunity." The Apostles must have felt a similar sense of being overwhelmed by opportunity

when Jesus posed the question, "How can we feed this multitude of famished men?"

Dr. C. W. Black, an eloquent preacher in our city, said to a conference of black preachers at Bishop College some time ago, "The church always operates out of meager resources. If it waits until its inventory shows it has adequate food in its warehouses to feed the multitudes, it never feeds anyone."

I. The Shape of Our Opportunity  
1. The Shape of Spiritual Hunger

The five thousand were in that wasteland because of spiritual hunger. Disillusioned with the

dead religion of their day, despairing of the emptiness of following their political leaders by appealing the powers of Rome, they were spiritually curious and seeking. That same spiritual hunger exists today. It is reflected in the very apathy about which we are complaining. The apathy of urban man is one of disillusionment with the promises of yesterday's messiahs. There is, as Os Guinness has said, a "dust of death" on a decade of activism.

The smug smile of secular man who thought he had "come of age" and did not need God has been replaced by a worried frown. Spiritual hunger has broken out in unlikely places. Around the world this hunger is found.

The fresh voice of God comes from Jesus the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever.

2. The Shape of Physical Hunger

Famished men stirred the compassion of a caring Christ. Those tears must be flowing today in a world in which nutrition experts are seriously debating what they call "triage." That's a term for separating nations into three groups: those whose food needs will be met no matter what we do, those whose food needs cannot be met no matter what we do, and those whose food needs can be met no matter what we do.

(Continued on page 3)



MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER is the site for the 1975 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12. About 16,000 were expected to register for the sessions which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. (BP) Photo.

## Call For Assistance For Vietnamese Refugees

By Marjean Patterson

An opportunity for Mississippi Baptists to help alleviate some of the great and acute needs of refugee Vietnamese has been placed before us.

Rev. Lewis Myers, Southern Baptist missionary, is currently living at Eglin Air Force Base, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, working among thousands of refugees from the war-torn country of Vietnam. He has advised state Baptist headquarters personnel of some of the needs of these people.

Following is a list of some of the items which are critically needed right now:

- piece goods (remnants or bolts, any kind except wool)

straw hats  
straw bags  
umbrellas  
size 7 men's shoes  
size 5 ladies' shoes  
good used children's clothing  
(should be clean and marked with size)

Should individuals or churches in Mississippi desire to help provide these items, please mail them to:

Rev. Lewis I. Myers  
In care of Dr. James Monroe  
First Baptist Church  
Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

Further information may be secured from Rev. Rodney Webb, Cooperative Missions Department, Baptist Building, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or telephone 354-3704.

## SBC President's Address

(Continued from page 1)

God's wisdom in framing the Constitution.

These sturdy people crossed the ocean, not to find soil for their plows but liberty for their souls. The secret of America is her spiritual heritage. One hundred and fifty years ago a noted Frenchman came to America to seek the secret of her greatness. He wrote, "I sought for America's greatness. I found it not in her fields and forests; I found it not in her mines and factories; I found it not in her Congress and great tribunals. It was only when I heard her preaching righteousness that I discovered her greatness."

Then he added, "America is great because America is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

America is living in an integrity crisis! We are seeing a culture developing which accepts lying, cheating and stealing as an acceptable practice in life to accomplish human goals. Watergate, pardon my mentioning it, has underscored the importance of honesty. I feel that we are becoming a nation of dishonest people.

It is easy to point our finger at government officials who have been indiscreet in their income tax or have used obscenity. But, dishonesty is not restricted to high government officials. As Billy Graham has said, "There is a little Watergate in all of us." But brethren, how much difference is there in cribbing on college exams or from letting a story in the first person which you lifted from some book of illustrations, or some joke you heard on television, become a personal experience? As we are always accurate in our statistics, about the number of baptisms, the number of people who come forward in our revivals?

We are living in a belief crisis! We have lost our ability to believe or have faith in anything. This has developed a state of mind where we don't want to believe anything or anyone, yet we know we must believe. We are hungry to believe but we don't believe the food we are offered has any nourishment in it. Never have we been told so much and offered so little so we have become skeptical of everything and everybody.

What has produced this frame of mind in our great country? Clare Boothe Luce in a U. S. News and World Report interview, spoke it clear and loud, "Modern man has lost his soul. This is really what is at the root of his malaise." To regain our Christian hope demands more than a renewed patriotism to a troubled nation. It demands a dynamic encounter with a transcendent God who is alive in history and awaits His wandering children to come home. William Penn was right, "Men will be governed by God or they will be ruled by tyrants."

Let us Ring the Bell to Call America Forward to Greatness! II. LET THE BELL RING TO CALL US FORWARD TO A NEW WORLD VISION.

The prophet is heard to cry out, "Without a vision my people perish." Without a vision my church, my denomination will perish. The great commission demands that we look beyond the four walls of our churches and beyond the organized structures of our boards, agencies and institutions to see all peoples of the earth who are in desperate need. Christians cannot be isolationist, comfortably speaking religious terms to each other at eleven o'clock Sunday morning. The whole church of God must go with the whole gospel to the whole world.

This whole gospel must be like a coin with two sides, like a sword with two edges, like God working with two hands, a gospel with personal faith and social action. One without the other is a false

Mrs. Earl Kelly  
Is Recuperating  
After Surgery

Mrs. Earl Kelly, wife of the executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, recently underwent surgery at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson. In the operation, a portion of one of her lungs was removed. Mrs. Kelly is now at home and is recuperating on schedule.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS)—The Supreme Court or any court would be prohibited from denying or restricting an unconstitutional "exercise of free religious expression or the saying of voluntary prayer" in any public school or other public building under a bill which has been introduced in the Senate. Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.), submitted the measure.

## Vietnam Missionary Urges Refugee Ministry

(Continued from page 1.)  
with an overcoddling attitude," Lassiter said. "Whatever you do for this person, make sure you maximum effort is spent in helping them become self-sufficient in America," he added.

### Need Help

Ironically, at first they will be totally dependent. They will need help in everything — getting food, clothing, learning the language. A sponsor or anyone assisting them should always have in mind that the refugees gradually should become less and less

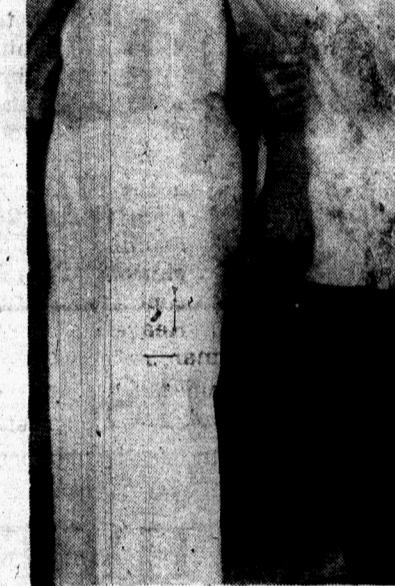
dependent, according to Lassiter. Lassiter encouraged individuals interested in sponsoring refugees to do so through their church. He explained, "The actual sponsor ought to be a church, even though an individual in that church is actually doing it."

"It looks much better to the people determining the validity of sponsors to find that a group, per se, is assuming responsibility for that family."

Among the problems facing refugees which potential sponsors need to understand include climate adjustments, response to America's affluence, the problems any minority group faces and the anxiety of leaving relatives behind.

Underscoring the importance of Christian sponsors, Lassiter feels it is important for the people who sponsor the Vietnamese to be people who care and who love.

Those who haven't had a great deal of training with the Vietnamese don't know specifically how to help, he said, "And the only thing that's going to overcome a lack of knowledge is a great deal of love."



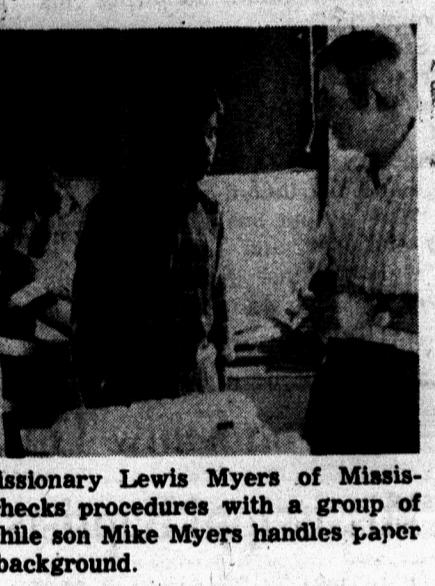
Paul Vandercook, left, Gulf Coast language missionary, discusses plans with Pastor Hai of Vietnam.



Convention President Dr. James Richardson chats with a newcomer from Vietnam.



Paul Vandercook, left, Gulf Coast language missionary, discusses plans with Pastor Hai of Vietnam.



Paul Vandercook, left, Gulf Coast language missionary, discusses plans with Pastor Hai of Vietnam.

## Procedures

As a result of a visit to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, by Dr. James Richardson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Rev. Rodney Webb, coordinator of language missions work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Paul Vandercook, Home Mission Board language missionary on the Mississippi Gulf coast, an outline of information concerning the sponsorship have been determined.

It was pointed out that this sponsorship is not "adopting" a family or "taking on" a group such as in welfare cases but is helping people to find work in their fields. At Eglin Air Force Base there are to be found doctors, dentists, architects, engineers, teachers, mechanics, nurses, carpenters, painters, electricians, and many young military men.

The information and the procedures for sponsorship are presented below.

### SUBJECT: Resettlement of Vietnamese Refugees

INFORMATION: Gathered on two-day trip to Eglin Air Force Base (James Richardson, Rodney Webb, Paul Vandercook)

MAIN SOURCE: Lewis Myers, Missionary to Vietnam and Southern Baptist Coordinator for family placement, working with Church World Service.

AIMS IN USE OF INFORMATION: To inform and inspire Mississippi Baptist churches and individuals toward helping in immediate resettlement of Vietnamese families or individuals.

THEME: Maybe call this drive Project or Operation Helping Hand Important Information in this Connection: This sponsorship is not the "adopting" a family, nor is it a project to "take on" a group (as in welfare) but it is simply a helping hand to aid people to find work in their fields (this camp has doctors, dentists, architects, engineers, teachers, mechanics, nurses, carpenters, painters, electricians, etc., etc., and many young military men.)

I. At this camp, among those who deal with the refugees, one thing keeps on surfacing — from many conversations — the one desire of the refugees is not to be a refugee. A sponsor becomes a link between what and where the refugee is now and what he can be in this country: being settled and being productive. Whatever help the person or family needs in reaching this goal is provided by the sponsor (house, job, help for a while, counsel —)

II. Government has registered seven agencies to help with this resettlement.

Southern Baptists work with Church World Service. Our hope is that many associations will work together to have several churches in their area sponsor

families. In this way there will be the possibility of a "community" kind of fellowship in each county.

Church World Service through the denominational representative stands behind the resettlement.

In case the refugee family or the sponsoring person or group are unhappy with the situation after settlement, Church World Service will assume responsibility for the refugees again.

### III. Mechanics of Resettlement

a. Sponsor card is filled out (get cards from Rodney Webb Cooperative Missions Dept.) P.O. Box 530, Jackson, ask for people with certain skills: hotel work, mechanics, nurses, etc.) — On this card, agency needs as complete a file (job profile) as possible. Are sponsors expecting completely trained people? Are they willing to train?

b. Our representative Lewis Myers at Eglin) gets complete basic information profile on refugees — states job skills, lists

family resources, education, size of family, age of members of family, desire about work, and further education.

c. On basis of sponsor card and refugee profiles agency makes a tentative match-up with sponsor.

d. Representative calls family in to reconfirm facts and evaluate possibilities of success in the combination of sponsor and family or individuals.

### e. Family is told of possibility

f. Sponsor is informed of "match-up"

g. If all agree, transportation is arranged — can come from 1. refugee (some have some funds)

2. sponsors

3. government

If there are questions or special refugees to be requested, call Lewis Myers at 883-4251.

### IV. Motivation for Mississippi Baptists

a. Myers — "We can do more now toward winning Vietnamese

people to the Lord (and in a short period of time), than all of our mission in Vietnam has been able to do up to this point!"

b. God has been especially preparing many Vietnamese people for these days — In last two years there has been unusual, even amazing response to the gospel in Vietnam.

Even now in refugee camps (today in fact) families are coming to missionary to request that he come to their tent at night to tell them how to be saved. Tonight he went to three families in response to this request. One Vietnamese pastor has won 16 families since coming to Eglin.

c. This is a prime opportunity to tell the good news to people who need to hear and who readily respond to the one who said, "Come unto me — and I will give you rest."

It is also a wonderful chance to show the people here and the world a real, caring, acting Christianity!

## An Opportunity For Christian Love

By Rodney Webb  
Language Missions Coordinator  
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

As I sat in front of one of the tents talking with a 17 year old Vietnamese boy, he told of how he and his sisters and their husbands had gotten out of the country; but his mother and father are still there. When asked if he thought they would get out, he got a far away look in his eyes.

Earlier in the day this same boy had asked James Richardson to come by his tent, and he told the boy he would be there. The boy, in turn, said, "I believe you."

A young man who was in training at the Keesler Air Force Base in May of 1971 was con-

verted and baptized and became a Southern Baptist. He went back to Vietnam and worked with Lewis Myers in Danang. When Danang fell, he sent his children out on the "children's life"; and they were taken to Holland. Later, he and his wife escaped. Several weeks ago Lewis Myers heard someone calling him across the camp. Sure enough, it was Pastor Hai, the former trainee. Please be in prayer with this couple as they attempt to get their children from Holland reunited with them. Pastor Hai and his wife already have a sponsor but are remaining at Eglin to witness to the refugees there. At last report he had won 14 families to the Lord. Twelve of these families are still there.

How grateful I am to be a part

of the Mississippi Baptist family. I believe it will respond in a very positive way to the needs of these people. I further believe this is one of our greatest challenges! It is my hope that we will have several churches to respond as sponsors of families and that associations will sponsor several families in order that they might locate close to each other.

If you have a particular family that you want to sponsor, it would be necessary for us to have the full name.

Here is an opportunity for Christian love to be expressed through Christian action as we share our faith, our love, our lives, and our friendship with these families. Over a period of time, they would have to come to know Christ.

## Requirement For Sponsorship

### Sponsor Information Card

Name _____	
Address: _____	
Phone: (Bus.) _____ or (Hm.) _____	
Can you offer Employment: Yes _____ No _____	
Can you house temporarily: Yes _____ No _____	
(Get a complete job profile! Does it require a person to be fully trained or will there be time for training? Is there employment possibility for wife and older teenagers?)	

When a church or association votes to sponsor a family, the information should be sent to Rev. Rodney Webb, Cooperative Missions Dept., P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

# Decade Of Advance Meetings Begin June 23

Decade of Advance preparation meetings begin June 23, with the first one being at First Church, Biloxi. There are 14 such meetings ending on July 29.

Last week a special section of The Baptist Record dealt with the Decade of Advance. Pastors of churches where the meetings will be held were asked to write articles for the Decade of Advance, using as their theme the lines from the Decade hymn, "Lead On, O King Eternal."

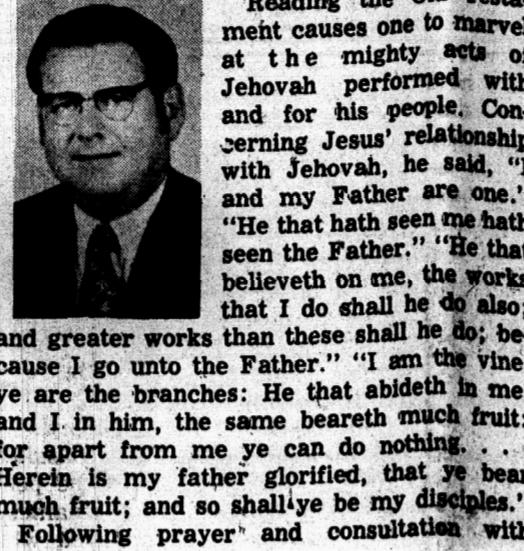
Those messages are continued in this week's issue. There is also an article on Christian Education over the next 10 years by Dr. Ralph Noonester, president of William Carey College. Rev. John Alexander, director of the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has authored a general article on the Decade taken from the Decade scripture, Exodus 14:10-18.

The schedule for the 14 meetings is repeated.

Date	Church	City
June 23	First	Biloxi
June 24	First	Hattiesburg
June 26	Parkway	Natchez
June 27	First	Brookhaven
June 30	First	Jackson
July 1	First	Meridian
July 7	First	Greenville
July 8	First	Greenwood
July 14	Clarksdale	Clarksdale
July 15	First	Batesville
July 17	First	Holy Springs
July 18	Calvary	Tupelo
July 26	First	Kosciusko
July 29	First	Starkville

## The Lord Will Fight For You

by John Alexander  
Director, Stewardship Department



Reading the Old Testament causes one to marvel at the mighty acts of Jehovah performed with and for his people. Concerning Jesus' relationship with Jehovah, he said, "I and my Father are one." "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father." "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. Herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; and so shall ye be my disciples."

Following prayer and consultation with

church leaders, Mississippi Baptists are launching A Decade of Advance. It is comforting to know that we can embark depending on God's promise to go with us. The spiritual battles we must fight cannot be won with human resources alone. In this spiritual warfare we can rest assured that the Lord will fight for us. As you look at the great commission you become aware that Christ's presence and power are for those going, teaching, and baptizing.

We have a world to reach and win. There are multiplied millions to teach and comfort. Other millions need the help of a guiding and healing hand. As the milling multitudes of this globe look to us and our churches they expect still to receive something from us. We are the first generation of Christians living in the world with the technical ability and financial resources to make the gospel known to every soul alive in our generation.

Surely it is not necessary to point out that if we can, God expects us to accept the challenge of it. In this next decade we need a united, all-inclusive, all-out effort to strengthen and motivate every church to provide the provisions and personnel for what could be the last and largest attempt at world evangelization before Jesus returns.

If God gives us the time, won't you be a part of such an effort for Christ in Mississippi? When we follow his leadership and pay the price, the Lord will fight for us. God needs us! Our churches need us! The lost multitudes need us!

The time has come. Let us together move ahead confidently believing that the Lord will fight for us!

As Moses spoke to the people for God, he said, "The Egyptians you are looking at—you will never see them again. The Lord will fight for you..." (Ex. 10 TLB).

## Till Sin's Fierce War Shall Cease

by Tommy Tutor  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Holly Springs

The recent events in Cambodia and Vietnam have been shocking to the American people. This is probably the greatest set-back for the United States since our beginning. We lost our first war.

However, we are waging another war which we shall not lose. The war against sin and satan. This war is not against flesh and blood, "...but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12.

Christ has made it possible for us to conquer in this war. We are conquerors because He is. "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Rev. 6:2. Christ conquered sin, satan, and death in His death, burial and resurrection. And He

still is conquering through the lives of His people. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37.

We need to thank God for the power to conquer. Plans to advance God's Kingdom is the way to conquer — We need to be the aggressor. Let us plan the attack to conquer sin — in our individual lives, our church, our communities, and in our world.

It has been said that failure to plan means that we should plan to fail. I am grateful that Mississippi Baptists are making plans to advance. These plans cover both the present needs and the needs for the future. I trust this will become a cooperative effort among all our churches in the state. We need to stand for God, to stand against sin, and to stand together. This will enhance our power and influence to win in this battle for right.

The people and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs have committed their full support to this Decade of Advance. By standing together we enlarge our army, strengthen our conquering power, and ultimately share in the victory together. It is my prayer that we will be on the attack till sin's fierce war shall cease.

## Thy Tents Shall Be Our Home

by Bob Ramsay  
Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo

The call by Dr. Earl Kelly, our Executive Secretary, for a DECADE OF ADVANCE in stewardship and missionary outreach is not only in keeping with the nature of the gospel, but it is a worthy challenge for the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The crises of our day and the appalling needs of our time for the message of redemption are supportive of this call.

"Thy tents shall be our home" are words which convey the idea that God's people are constantly moving forward in conquest for Him. People who live in tents are mobile. To bivouac for the night and a quick rest, a marching army would pitch tents if the weather were extremely harsh; otherwise they would rest under the canopy of heaven, ready to move at a moment's notice.

If the rescued slaves of Egypt had built a subdivision at the foot of Mount Sinai, it would have indicated that their understanding of redemption was only freedom from the servitude of Egypt, but

not the freedom to go on and occupy the Promised Land. The Red Sea in front of them was no solid reason for their failure to advance, though they were using it as an occasion for fretting and grumbling. So God said to Moses, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." And God never challenges and commands His people to advance without granting them the assurance of both His presence and His power. To the church our Lord said, "Go and I will be with you!"

This call for a DECADE OF ADVANCE is basic in the New Testament, for God is ever calling His redeemed to look up, to look outward, and to look onward. One day Phillips Brooks was asked what he would do if he were called to a church that was completely dilapidated and about to fold up. The great Preacher said, "I would do three things. First, I would gather whatever people I could together. I would preach the best sermon I could by the Holy Spirit's power on missions. Then I would take an offering for work overseas."

I personally commit myself to be a part of this dynamic effort to build a broader base for the Cooperative Program; and it is my conviction that the leadership of Calvary Baptist Church will not only support but will be in the vanguard of this DECADE OF ADVANCE.

port, all colleges and universities except public community colleges will have smaller full-time equivalent enrollments than they had in 1973, especially private two-year colleges and liberal arts colleges.

The institutions which will retain their current enrollments, according to the Carnegie report, are those that attract all ages, are not too dependent on teacher education, have public support, are of effective size, are in urban rather than rural environments, have low tuition, have a national reputation or a devoted specialized undergraduate enrollment.

are related to the health professions, have been realistic in their planning and commitments, and are located in the South, in California, or New York rather than the North Plains or Mountain States.

What conclusions are to be ours

as we read these forecasts? As Mississippi Baptists promote the theme, Decade of Advance, what is to be our planning for Christian Higher Education in our state?

A leveling of enrollment or a possible decline in enrollment in Baptist supported higher education in Mississippi may be anticipated. A severe financial crunch, which has always largely been the way of life of our Mississippi Baptist colleges, will continue.

There is no longer just the desirability, but also the absolute necessity, for the implementation of cooperation among the four colleges and the selling of pastors and church staff all over Mississippi of the necessity of the support of the Baptist colleges of Mississippi. There must develop a new kind of cooperation between Baptist college officials and

church staffs. Pastors throughout the state must see that they must go much farther in support of the Baptist colleges with students and dollars than is now represented by a perfunctory Baptist College Day.

The colleges, as well as the churches, must do much more than they are now doing if they are to merit this accelerated support from pastors and church staffs. They must see to it that there is no excess baggage, no waste of monies and effort on programs which do not pay off. Changes in programs, changes in methods and places of instruction as well as in content, are called for.

Adult education, which is now a major segment of the program of some of our Baptist colleges now, will continue to expand. The curriculum will move and more emphasize career education. There will be more

credit by examination. There will be more part-time faculty.

The primary challenge now facing Mississippi Baptists and the Baptist colleges is the provision of support through additional endowments and student aid funds, which will maintain our colleges as accessible financially for the average family of Mississippi Baptists. If such a challenge is not met, the Baptist college, if it is to survive, must turn almost exclusively to those students able to pay the higher tuition and thus to students desiring to attend the college that is somewhat exclusive.

Perhaps the most practical way to avoid this is for every church to consider a scholarship program which would enable some of its choicest young people with many financial problems to attend a Baptist college in Mississippi. We will do so. We will do our utmost to make disciples for Christ, to make "gladness break like morning" where'er His face through us — as Mississippi Baptists — may be caused to appear.

## SBC Sermon: Mighty Deed With Meager Resources

(Continued from page 1) do, and those who might be helped by a maximum effort. The suggestion is to write off a third of the world as unsavable and work only on those whose long range needs can be met. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization estimates that an average of 15,000 people die of malnutrition daily, 10,000 of them children." (Post American, March, 1974, p. 4)

The task seems overwhelming, but the urgency of need demands a Christian conscience response.

We must demonstrate love through helping men to eat. We have not met their deepest need until we lead them to the Eternal Bread.

### 3. The Shape of Sagging Morality

In a book called "Our Depleted Society" Melman Seymour described the inevitable ruin of a throw away culture depleting its resources. We are challenged by a society in which non-marriage is becoming a defensible life style. Trust erodes. Corruption at the top layers of leadership in business, labor, and politics crea-

tes a stench of death in the air. Into these graveyards of rotting corpses of consciences mutilated and eternal principles rejected, we are called to do with a resurrection message. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are to call from the grave ideals, long dead, now alive in men who have come to a new life.

Few experiences top the thrill of a pastor sensing the Spirit of God challenging and changing men in this dimension of life. In

the past few months I have seen that challenge being met. A busi- ness executive calls to say, "Pray for me tomorrow, I'm going to tell them about the slush fund I inherited when I took this job. I may not have a job tomorrow night." A government official says, "I've been studying the book of Amos, and I cannot remain silent about the practices happening in my structure of government." A corporate executive says, "Pray for me. Human lives are at stake in the mess I'm called upon to clean up, I want to discern the lines between justice and mercy."

such a way as to salvage people." Sagging morality becomes one shape of our overwhelming opportunity.

II. Some Strategies for Response

Mark recounts the detail of Jesus' set about feeding the five thousand. The task was too massive. Twelve men could not feed five thousand. He began by getting the task into pieces they could handle. Breaking the groups into fifties and hundreds, he set out the strategy for dealing with their hunger. Over-

(Continued On Page 5)

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL

### Vietnam Refugees

In this week's Baptist Record we carry a feature article by Dr. James Richardson, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Rodney Webb, Mississippi Director for the program, urging Mississippi Baptists to become involved in the national effort to resettle the Vietnam refugees. They tell of the tremendous missionary opportunity which this project offers, and of how our state can become a vital part of it.

We join with Mr. Richardson and other Southern Baptist leaders in pressing the importance of this appeal. As Christians our hearts already respond to the needs of these people, and we are under the command of our Lord to help them because they do need us. As I considered writing about this I came across an editorial written by one of our fellow Southern Baptist editors, Al C. Shackleford of the Indiana Baptist. His word is so forceful that we are publishing it in full here. Our suggestion is that you simply read Mississippi into the places where he is referring to Indiana, and the message will fit us here.

#### Sponsor A Stranger

Jesus, in describing the criteria for those who would be "blessed of my Father" and who would be "cursed into everlasting fire," in-

cluded this requirement — "I was a stranger and ye took me in" or "... ye took me not in" (Matt. 25: 35, 43).

Our Lord then goes on to explain that "Inasmuch as ye have done it (or ye did it not) unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it (or ye did it not) unto me" (Matt. 25: 40, 45).

Within recent weeks America has been invaded by more than 45,000 refugees from South Vietnam. Most of these are temporarily housed at three resettlement camps — Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort Chaffee, Ark.; and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. An estimated 8,000 others are temporarily housed on Guam.

Various relief agencies are attempting to channel these refugee families into "normal" daily life.

Our Southern Baptist missionaries — both from the Home Mission Board and those Foreign Mission Board workers who were evacuated from Vietnam — are ministering to spiritual and physical needs until the family wage earners could begin receiving salaries.

Irvin Dawson, who heads the immigration and refugee service for the SBC Home Mission Board, has offered several suggestions for a church in its consideration of such sponsorship.

The Home Mission Board has announced its desire to help resettle about 10,000 of these refugees in cooperation with Church World Service.

Each of these Vietnamese families will need a sponsor to assist such resettlements.

Such proposals call to mind the

efforts put forth by Southern Baptist churches in the late 1950s to help settle refugees from Cuba. Through the assistance of these churches, many of these Cuban families were given an opportunity to find a new life in a nation in which they were strangers. Perhaps you are familiar with some church which participated in this great venture of friendship.

Now the need has arisen again. Perhaps your church should seriously consider the possibility of serving as sponsor of one of these refugee families.

The church would be expected to provide temporary housing, food-stuff and other essentials, and assist the wage earners of the refugee family in securing jobs. Many of the refugees have professional skills or vocational training and experience. Housing and food provisions would need to be continued until the family wage earners could begin receiving salaries.

Irvin Dawson, who heads the immigration and refugee service for the SBC Home Mission Board, has offered several suggestions for a church in its consideration of such sponsorship.

The church membership should thoroughly discuss the project and vote its approval in a regular church business meeting. Then notification of such action should be given to R. V. Haygood, Indiana mission director, or Dawson's office in Atlanta. (Mississippi: Rodney Webb, Box 530, Jackson; phone 354-3704).

The church will then receive a profile on a family needing sponsorship. The information will tell about the family, their religious affiliation, occupational background, and other data. The church can then decide whether or not to proceed with the sponsorship of this specific family.

Obviously, the sponsorship will involve time, effort, and funds from the church membership. It is not a decision to be taken lightly — but then, taking in strangers never is.

Last month there was a great groundswell for adoption of Vietnamese orphans. The sponsorship of Vietnamese families is just as needed.

We pride ourselves in our "Hoosier hospitality." Now Indiana Southern Baptists have an opportunity to exhibit and to experience it.

### Congratulations, Baptist Standard

The Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist weekly journal, has moved into a new building, near the Texas Turnpike between Dallas and Ft. Worth, and about four miles west of downtown Dallas. We congratulate editor John J. Hurt, the paper's Board of Directors, the members of the staff, and all Texas Baptists on this hour of achievement. Ceremonies marking the entering of the new building took place on Tuesday, May 27.

The May 28 issue of the Standard carries photographs of the building, its varied facilities, and of Mr. Hurt and his staff. The history of the publication is briefly related, and the scope of its ministry is revealed.

The Baptist Standard has the

largest circulation of any religious weekly periodical in the nation, with a present mailing of more than 372,000 copies each week. Unlike the Baptist Record, the paper is controlled by a state convention board. Printing and mailing as well as editing, are done in the new building, even though the printing is done by contract with a printing firm that leases part of the building.

One of the greatest unifying forces among Southern Baptists is its more than thirty state news periodicals, almost all of which are weekly. The Baptist Standard, with its tremendous circulation, leads the way, but the many other publications join it, in earnestly endeavoring to keep Southern Baptists an informed people.

#### NEWEST BOOKS

**THE RELUCTANT WITNESS** by Kenneth Chafin (Broadman, 143 pp., \$4.50) Kenneth L. Chafin is widely known as preacher, teacher, and evangelism leader among Southern Baptists. At the present time he is pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. In the opening sentences, he says "This book is written for those Christians who have not yet found a natural and satisfying way of sharing their faith in Jesus Christ." He reminds the Christian that he should learn to tell the story of what Christ means to him and should realize that the Holy Spirit is his helper and that the Bible itself is his message. The book tells how to deal with people of different types and how different types of Christians can be witnesses. A practical handbook on soul winning.

**THE STORY OF THE BAPTISTS IN ALL AGES AND COUNTRIES** by Richard B. Cook (Baptist Republication Society, cloth 413 pp., \$8.95) Another reprint of an old book now being made available by the Republication group. This book was first published in 1884. It begins with the fiction type story of a Baptist pastor who decided to write a story of Baptists for the home instruction of his children. The book is the result. The introductory chapter deals with an introduction explaining who the Baptists are and the second chapter makes a study of the Bible and baptism. This is followed by a history of groups holding New Testament principles through the dark ages. Very quickly, however, the author comes to the Anabaptists and then to Baptists of the Reformation period. The story then moves to the United States and then developments in this land. Also included is the work of men like Carey, Judson, Oncken, and others whose names are recorded in Baptist records. In the final chapter the author looks to the future and it is interesting to see what was anticipated concerning the growth of Baptists when this author was writing 90 years ago. The book is filled with quaint illustrations of the time, line drawings of men, scenes and buildings. Not an up-to-date history as such, but a valuable volume on Baptist history made available through this reprint.

The director of the Baptist Republication Society suggests that 50¢ be added for postage and handling when books are ordered.

Dozens of other new books are listed as among those which the organization plans to reprint.

**NOAH'S THREE SONS** by Arthur C. Custance (Zondervan, 368 pp., \$8.95) A study of human history as it is related to the descendants of the three sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The author traces the history of three descendants and shows the contribution each group has made, namely the technological genius of Ham; the intellectual character of Japheth; and the religious qualities of Shem. The book opens a new field of thinking concerning human history and its relationship to these little known Bible characters. The author calls this the first of a series of books which will study human history.

**LOOK FOR THE WONDER** by Frieda Barkman, with foreword by Sherwood Wirt (Gospel Light, paper, 87 pp., \$1.45) In this very personal narrative, the author tells how she and her family somewhere along the way rediscovered the wonder of it all — the wonder, the thrill, the gratitude, the joy that filled their souls when they first believed in Jesus Christ.

**THE EVANGELICAL FAITH** by Helmut Thielicke (Eerdman's, 420 pp., \$10.95) This is a theological volume written by a German theologian whose works are widely known among the theologians of America. This is the first part of a three-volume set with the subtitle "The Relation of Theology to Modern Thought-Forms." In this volume the author surveys the current state of theology and responds to significant philosophical challenges confronting Christianity. It is a book which will be valuable only to the trained theologian.

**PREPARING FOR THE STORM** by Kenneth D. Barney (Gospel Publishing House, pocket book, paper, 96 pp., \$1.25) The author believes that present world conditions point to the nearness of the coming of the Lord and a day of storm for the earth. He shows how people and especially Christians are to get ready.

**THE CHURCH THAT DARED TO CHANGE** by Michael R. Tucker (Tyndale, 129 pp., \$2.95) The story of how a divided splendiferous congregation, the Temple Baptist Church of Colorado Springs, Colorado was led by a young pastor into a positive Christian fellowship and wit-

ness. He describes how unity was brought to pass, how obstacles were overcome, and how the ministry of the church was expanded and enlarged. The church is now provided an ever growing ministry in the community and has experienced real renewal.

**ETHICS FOR EXECUTIVES** by Samuel Southard (Thomas Nelson Inc., paper, 170 pp.) This is not, strictly speaking, a religious book. Yet it deals with a field which should involve every Christian. Moreover, the author is a former Southern Baptist theological teacher. He is dealing with the question of ethical standards for executives in the competitive world of business and the power structure of public administration. He asks the question "Can executives be ethical?" This is a timely question, at a day when Americans have just experienced Watergate and related troubles. The book is carefully planned, well written and very direct in its application. It will help the executive to look at himself and his responsibility and shows him the way of achieving and maintaining strong ethical standards. The closing part of the book includes some interesting conversations in which ethical relationships are involved.

**RESURRECTION AND THE MESSAGE OF EASTER** by Xavier Leon-Dufour (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 330 pp., \$9.95) A Roman Catholic French scholar now related to the pontifical Biblical Commission, presents a scholarly study of the meaning of Christ's resurrection. The author is a deep scholar and his writings will be understood only by those who have similar scholarship. Nevertheless, the book does open some interesting questions concerning the meaning of the resurrection.

**SEVEN WORDS OF LOVE** by Herbert Lockyer (Word, 165 pp., \$5.95) Fresh new messages on the seven sayings of Christ on the cross. Dr. Lockyer is a great English Bible student and scholar. He spent many years in America, but now has returned to his native land. He is the author of many books and in this volume presents a fresh enlightening approach to a familiar section of the scripture.

**FUN WITH HANDCRAFT** by Opal Brown (Baker, paper, 59 pp., \$1.25) Exciting ideas for 44 creative projects. Ordinary, easily obtained articles are used.

## MORE THAN A HOUSE

## ...A HOME



"THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER" — 1 PET 1:25

## THE HOME BUILDER

### THE BAPTIST FORUM

#### Enjoyed Article On Mean Mothers

Dear Mr. Odle:

As former Mississippians, may my family say how much we enjoy our Baptist Record and the great works of God being performed with such great impact there.

We may be 1000 miles away, but our hearts, our thoughts, our prayers are with you and Baptists all over the world.

Since we have three teenage daughters, the article under May 8 "Light for Living" about the "World's Meanest Mother" was greatly enjoyed, not only by myself but by our children as well.

my refrigerator so we may all be relieved why mothers are so mean. I've clipped the article and placed it on minded why mothers are so mean. Thanks a million for that article. At least my children know their mom isn't the only strict mother around!

The Ben F. Yarbys  
Route 2, Box 132-X  
Harrisonburg, Va. 22801

#### On The MORAL SCENE...

**Divorce Rate Up** — The National Center for Health Statistics of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has just reported that there were 970,000 divorces in the United States in 1974, compared to 913,000 in 1973, and 479,000 in 1965. The rate of population growth in the United States is down over the last decade. The rate of marriage was down and the rate of divorces was up. The Tennessean, p. 10, March 17, 1975

**RICH AND POOR** — In spite of the fact that the United States had a gross national product of one thousand billion dollars, in 1970 about 25.5 million or 13 percent of the population were reported to be below the poverty level of \$3,968 for a family of four. . . . During the past generation, the Council of Economic Advisors admits in its 1974 Report, there has been no change whatsoever in the shares of wealth in this country. The rich, despite all of the "radical" innovations of the 60s are just as outrageously better off. The Social Indicators report gives the following fantastic figures: The poorest 20% of the American people own 0.2% of the nation's wealth; the next poorest 20% own 2.1%; the middle 20% own 6.2%; the 20% after them own 15.5%; and the top fifth owns 76%. That means that the richest fifth of the American people own three times as much wealth as the other 80%. (Iffco news, vi:1, January-March, 1975)

**AMERICAN FAMILY: TROUBLED BUT STRONG** — Today's family is "troubled" but it is also "strong and resilient," a major nationwide survey has indicated. Summarizing their findings, The Yankelevich surveyors reported . . . "difficult times have served to strengthen family members' commitment to many values — family, financial security, savings and thrift — but they have also eroded family confidence in the future." . . . Asked to name their most important personal values, those surveyed cited family (92%), work (77%), education (76%), self-fulfillment (75%), financial security (74%), religion (62%), doing things for others (61%), having children (60%), not being in debt (60%), patriotism (59%), and saving money (55%). . . . "the President ethic" was found to "dominate the value structure of the American Family."

(Memphis Mirror All-Church Press, 5-16-75, p. 6)

#### Light for Living

Chester E. Swor

#### Message For Fathers

With Father's Day approaching, all fathers, present and prospective ones, may well ask this important question: **WHAT CAN I GIVE MY CHILDREN THAT WILL MEAN MOST TO THEM THROUGHOUT THE YEARS?**

Right away, it can be said, the mere giving of things, however generous and even overwhelming, is likely to be the gift of least significance in the building of strength and the development of values in the lives of sons and daughters. The things will be meaningful only if these three greater gifts are given:

1. **TIME** . . . Fathers need to spend time with their children in honest companionship, playtimes, work-times, devotional times, sharing times. In spending time with their children, fathers have a much better chance to know their strengths, weaknesses, dreams, hopes, and even fears. From the time spent with their fathers children can glean so much of the real qualities which have made their fathers admirable and will inevitably gain a significant sense of personal importance in knowing that a busy father makes the time to be with them.

A high school senior who had been to the most expensive summer camps, who had had a deluxe tour of Europe, who had his own car, who had a generous allowance, said plaintively to me: "My dad will give me anything money can buy, but I do wish that he would give me some of his time." Things minus time equalled loneliness!

2. **INTEREST** . . . a genuine concern to know the thinking of his children, what they hope to be in adulthood, what they are reading, with whom they associate most frequently, what their interests outside the home are, what their spiritual growth or problems may be, what their achievements are. From the infancy of the child this interest factor can be developed, so that the son or daughter will be eager to share fully with the father.

3. **EXAMPLE** . . . If the example of the father is an attractive pattern for character development, everything he says in teaching and companionship will be infinitely more effective. The son ought to be able to say, "My Dad is the sort of man I want to be." The daughter should be able to say, "My Dad is the sort of man I want my future husband to be."

**AND THOSE THREE GIFTS HAVE NO PRICE TAG: EVERY FATHER CAN GIVE THOSE GIFTS TO HIS CHILDREN.**

(Published by special arrangement with Dr. Chester Swor, 902 Whitworth Street, Jackson, Mississippi.)

## The Baptist Record

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## SBC President's Address

(Continued From Page 2)  
team to reach men in need of Christ.

We must remind ourselves as we give bread for life that we must also give the Bread of Life. I hope our denomination will never cease to believe that it makes its greatest contribution to man kind when it introduces him to Jesus Christ.

All the great revivals of history have resulted in social action which has endured through the ages. One that stands out as a testimony of the power of the gospel is the Evangelical Revival of England, led by Wesley and others, which broke the yoke of slavery. Spurgeon and Moody had employment bureaus, hospitals, orphanages, and offered other social services. They never considered it either-or, but rather both meeting man's total need. This is the gospel message in its full orb. The power of the gospel is adequate to usher in a social, moral, political and personal revolutionary change in society. There is no substitute for the power of the gospel as proclaimed in evangelism.

To give bread for life and the Bread of Life we must challenge all of the people of our churches to become involved. We can no longer wait for a specialized task force of professional missionaries to win this world to Christ. Some practical plan must be adopted and propagated by the Foreign and Home Mission Boards to involve lay persons in our direct mission task. Lay persons are ready and willing to become a part if we are willing to innovate our strategy to include them. The proposed Bold New Plan for World Missions which the missions agencies are exploring is encouraging in this direction.

God has given us the divine game-plan to undergird our world mission program... the Cooperative Program. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our togetherness we pause with a spirit of thanksgiving for leaders like M. E. Dodd and others who led us in joining hands and hearts through the Cooperative Program. Every pastor and church must rethink their relationship to this plan of mission support. Can we continue to call ourselves missionaries or Christians unless we are willing to share more of the tithes and offerings of our people with the lost multitudes of the world? We have done so much with so little, we envision with excitement, what would be accomplished if we were to take the great commission seriously and let it be reflected in our church budgets? Now is the time to cut out all the frills of our local programs and channel more of God's money to world missions. It is time to catch the spirit of our forefathers who in 1845 stated, "Our life as a denomination emerged in an effort to elicit, combine and direct those resources over which God has placed us as stewards."

Nothing can be accomplished in the strength of our human flesh. The book of Zechariah clearly states it, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6) I am calling upon our convention to adopt a program which I call "Project 714". It is found in II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear

### Hearing Loss is not a Sign of Old Age

Chicago, Ill.—A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the smallest Beltone aid ever made will be given absolutely free to anyone requesting it.

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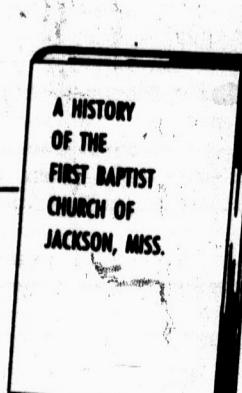
These models are free, so write for yours now. Thousands have already been mailed, so write today to Dept. 4612 Beltone Electronics Corp., 4201 W. Victoria St., Chicago, Ill.

### A History of The First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi

By Dr. R. A. and Mrs. Nannie Pitts McLemore

Dr. McLemore is the former president of Mississippi College and retired director of the State Archives and History Department. Dr. and Mrs. McLemore are recognized as among the foremost historians in the South. Their most recent books have been "A History of Mississippi" and "A History of the Mississippi Baptists".

This volume will have the most complete list of all present and former members of the church since 1832. It has been compiled over a period of 12 years from church and denominational records, documents of friends and members of the church, present and past, newspaper records, etc.



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A treasured addition to any church, school or home library, an appropriate gift for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries.

The First Baptist Church began in 1832 with the arrival in Jackson from South Carolina of a Baptist minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Lewis B. Holloway. With two others the church was organized in May 1832, first as a mission supported by other Baptist churches throughout the state, and over the years

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## Openness Emphasized At Missions Confab

of the Lord, walk ye in it." George Mahon, our U. S. Congressman from West Texas, said about our national crisis, "God leads us out into deep water not to drown us, but to cleanse us." Now we are ready to be cleansed to become His vessels for service. There are some basic tollings of this bell that we must sound loud and clear.

We must hear the ring calling us to Biblical authority. The Baptist Faith and Message, Statement adopted by the Convention in 1963 has a basic statement to which most people subscribe. "The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

The Bible is important but we ought to be as concerned about living it as we are about defending it. You only believe what you live. We say we believe the Bible, but we don't bring our lives and families into conformity with its teachings.

The spirit of the world has bled over into the ministry and we are plagued with the sins of our congregations resulting in our downfall. Broken homes, dissipated lives, forgotten dreams fill the cathedrals of worship. In spite of these regretful episodes, I call upon our convention to be understanding, forgiving, redemptive rather than critical and derogatory.

If they are to be restored they must have a helping hand from the people of God. Some agency of our convention ought to develop a redemption center, a restoration clinic, and a rehabilitation clinic for those in true repentance. If what we preach about God's forgiveness is true, let us practice it.

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — Openness was the major emphasis here as nearly 300 Southern Baptist leaders, missionaries, and Baptist nationals gathered with administrative staff and members of the Foreign Mission Board, for a consultation on foreign missions, an intensive study of world missions.

Information and ideas present-

What we have stated is an infinitesimal part of the true committed men and women of God. Across the battle fronts of our world mission endeavor stand the best people in all the world sacrificing themselves even to death for the gospel. I only state a reminder that our churches can rise higher spiritually than we who are the leaders. Let us live up to the standards we preach for our followers.

One contemporary historian marked the basic factors in the success of the early church in this manner. First, they believed in spiritual gifts which included a divine call and purpose. Second, they believed in the immediate return of Christ which gave them a sense of urgency. Third, they knew that God had pointed them to a destiny and would see them through it. These elements of faith are now evident in our fellowship and will move us toward victory in Jesus Christ.

Mississippi Valley Gas Company

The Clean Energy People

ed at the consultation, held June 4-8, prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here (June 10-12), will serve as study material and input for the board's report to the convention in 1976 concerning "bold new plans" for foreign missions during the next 25 years, plus other uses.

In stating the purpose of the consultation during the opening session, Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the sponsoring Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said:

"God has a way of letting us see things from different perspectives. For God has called many to serve him from many varieties of backgrounds and cultures. We gather to benefit from each other as we reach out to find what God is saying."

Jesse C. Fletcher, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., and formerly director of the board's Mission Support Division, reported the results of a similar consultation held in 1965 in Miami Beach.

In his report it was evident that although progress had been made in the 10-year period, many specific suggestions from the previous consultation were never im-

plemented.

Therefore, following Fletcher's report, Norvell G. Jones, a layman from St. Louis, Mo., and Cal Guy, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, called for the 1975 consultation to be an "action oriented conference."

Guy stated that all such a meeting can possibly be is "pure consultation. But consultation ought to reap implementation," he said. "This consultation is too important for any of us who have an overriding concern to play possum."

During the meeting's first open discussion, four national Baptists from countries where Southern Baptists have mission work, made comments and suggestions.

Chris Marantika of Indonesia said that even though there is an all-time high of 2,000 Southern Baptist missionaries, in light of the total of 12.5 million Southern Baptists, that number is actually very small.

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AMOUNT		CUMULATIVE
YEARS CONTRIBUTED	INTEREST	AMOUNT
1	\$ 598.35	\$ 6,096.35
5	9,989.30	47,489.30
10	42,196.05	117,196.05
15	107,014.70	219,514.70
20	219,702.35	368,702.35
25	402,654.25	590,154.25
30	688,742.95	913,742.95

The above computations are based on the assumption that all contributions shall be invested at the full 7 1/4% Certificate of Deposit rate for the entire term indicated, interest being compounded quarterly. Any change of rate would of course alter these figures. Computation is based on a 6-year term.

### Unifirst Individual Retirement Account

If you run your own business, or you're an employee who does not receive the benefits of a qualified retirement plan, you may contribute 15% of your income up to \$1,500 per year in your Unifirst IRA Plan. If you own the business you may make contributions to your own plan, and to any employee you may wish to assist. The chart shows how your investment grows in a Unifirst IRA Plan.

### \$1,500.00 ANNUALLY AT 7 1/4%

AMOUNT		CUMULATIVE
YEARS CONTRIBUTED	INTEREST	AMOUNT
1	\$ 119.67	\$ 1,619.67
5	1,997.86	9,497.86
10	8,439.21	23,439.21
15	21,402.94	43,902.94
20	43,940.47	73,940.47
25	80,530.85	118,030.85
30	137,748.59	182,748.59

The above computations are based on the assumption that all

\*A substantial interest penalty is required for early withdrawal.

contributions shall be invested at the full 7 1/4% Certificate of Deposit rate for the entire term indicated, interest being compounded quarterly. Any change of rate would of course alter these figures. Computation is based on a 6-year term.

### Important things to remember that apply to both Unifirst Retirement Plans.

☞ All qualified deposits are completely tax deductible; as interest accumulates it's also tax-free. When you begin to receive the benefits some tax will be required, but then you'll probably be in a lower tax bracket.

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☞ Unlike most offering you tax deductible retirement plans, Unifirst charges NO administration fee.

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B-1

## The Purpose Of The Bible: That Men Might Believe And Live

By Wm. J. Fallis

Jeremiah 26:1-6; Luke 24:13-27,  
44-49; John 20:30-31;  
1 John 1:1-4; 5:13

"Don't judge a book by its binding," says an old proverb. But the quality of binding was once a prime selling point in distributing Bibles. Many customers did not ask what it said or how; they just wanted one that looked good — as a gift, on the coffee table, or in the pew. Now the

Bible or New Testament comes bound in a variety of materials and colors besides expensive black leather. More people today seem more interested in what's in the Bible than in how it is bound. Two modern language translations and one paraphrase have sold millions of copies, many of them in paper binding. Although many people still prefer the King James Version, a growing number want to read God's Word in the language of their daily conversation.

## The Lesson Explained

God In Judgment  
Ready To Forgive  
Jer. 26:1-3

Although the chapter is different, this passage refers to the same "temple sermon" that we studied on May 25 in Jeremiah 7. Chapter 26 majors on what happened when Jeremiah preached, while the sermon itself gets the attention in chapter 7. During the fall festival after Jehoiakim became king, Jeremiah received a

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"word from the Lord."

The prophet was told to stand in the court of the Temple and declare to everyone who came to worship what the Lord intended to do. Because the people had become more concerned with the Temple than with the Lord, had let institutional religion take the place of true devotion to God, he was going to bring judgment upon them. God hoped that kind of preaching might awaken the people to repentance. If they would turn from their wrong ways of living, he could change his plans and save them from the coming destruction. Because God is righteous, he must judge the wicked, but one purpose of the Bible is to show that God is always

ready to forgive a repentant sinner.

Christ In The Old Testament  
Luke 24:44-47

Another purpose of the Bible is to present Christ as the culmination of God's progressive revelation. Even Jesus' disciples did not realize how much of the Old Testament had pointed toward him. They underestimated God's intention or misunderstood his idea of salvation.

At various times during his ministry Jesus had given fresh explanations of Bible passages, but here in Luke after the resurrection he needed to show his disciples how the purpose of God through the centuries had been worked out in him. He started, of

course, with the law of Moses, the Pentateuch, and then he pointed to "the prophets," which in the Hebrew Old Testament included the books of history and prophecy. Finally he cited passages in Psalms that referred to himself. What a marvelous short course in Bible study that must have been! Perhaps through most of the night Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (TEV).

That Men Might Believe and Live  
John 20:30-31

Here is one of the clearest statements of purpose by any writer of a Bible book. It follows immediately the confession of Thomas when the risen Lord invited him to touch his wounded hands and

side. Then John said in summary fashion that "Jesus did many other mighty works in his disciples' presence" (TEV), but John did not include them in his Gospel.

In other words, John had been selective in writing his interpretation of Jesus and his ministry. He omitted many things in the Synoptic Gospels, but all that he chose to tell had a very significant purpose. He wanted his readers to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, so that they "might have life through his name."

Fellowship With God and Others  
1 John 1:1-4

These four verses are two sentences. The main verb of the first one is "declared" in verse 3, and

the passage is easier to understand if you let verse 1 begin with: "We declare unto you." Then the writer lists the three kinds of personal experience he had had with "the Word of life": he heard, he saw, he touched. Such evidence convinced him beyond doubt as to Christ's reality. He wrote the letter to counteract those who were saying that God's Son would not have demeaned himself to appear in human flesh; thus, they argued he must have only seemed to be human. But the apostle declares his personal experience with Jesus makes such a claim ridiculous. He wrote his testimony "in order that the joy of us all may be complete" (NEB).

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

## In New Opportunities Of Service

By Bill Duncan

Acts 11:18-30

Roland Q. Leavell wrote in the introduction of his book on Evangelism Christ's Imperative Commission this truth:

"History's pages are both numerous and luminous as they reveal the power of evangelistic fires to purge the dross of sin from individual lives and from the social order. . . . Wherever the church has lost its missionary zeal and soul winning fervor, God has moved on."

The evangelistic fires must have new opportunities or they die out. The best way to extinguish the fire is keep it from fuel. When worldliness or an-

initial ministry the church grew. The new opportunity of service resulted in new leaders. Demands of the work in the new center of Christianity were so great that Barnabas could not handle it alone. He needed an assistant so he turned to Saul of Tarsus. Barnabas went and searched out Saul. After he brought him to Antioch, they worked with the church for an entire year. Saul was well received in the church.

The result of the fine work in Antioch brought forth a new name — Christians. This new work with Gentiles and Jews worshipping together attracted the attention of the people. "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." It may have been given to distinguish believers from Jews, for the believers believed Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament. Probably the name arose from the fact that believers were always talking about one whom they called "the Christ." Thus they were known as the "Christ-people." Up to this point they were called disciples, believers, saints, followers of the Way etc., but the name Christian would stick.

The new church was visited by a prophet named Agabus who predicted a famine over the known world. This presented a missionary challenge to the new Christians. They took seriously the words of the prophet and everyone gave an offering according to his ability. The relief offering was sent to the elders in Jerusalem by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. The gift was a good occasion for Barnabas to report on the character of the new work which he, more than a year before, had been sent to investigate. The offering may have been an occasion for fellowship between the great

BICENTENNIAL RALLY DRAWS 1,000 RICHMONDERS — W. O. Vaught, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., and former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, addressed 1,000 people who gathered at the steps of the Virginia State Capitol building in Richmond during a bicentennial rally. A replica of the Liberty Bell, on loan to Southern Baptists by the state of Mississippi, was featured at the rally. The bell was scheduled to move from Philadelphia, Penn., to Miami Beach, Fla., where it will ring in the opening session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Similar rallies were scheduled for six other cities. (BP) photo by James E. Legg.

communities of Antioch and Jerusalem. The inclusion of the Gentiles had strained the fellowship but had not broken it. The gift was an expression of appreciation for the church at Jerusalem.

Churches discover their missions in new opportunities of service. But a church must be willing to face the opportunities with openness. A person might have to change his attitude in order to be used by God.

The love of God is not contained. No racial, national or religious barriers should prevent God from extending his grace to all men. Therefore, the church must seek new ways of showing a and telling the love of God to all men.

In one church situation the leaders were convinced that their buildings should be used more than a few hours a week. The congregation enthusiastically supported a child care center and kindergarten program. The working mothers found the day care to meet the needs of the children.

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## WHO WOULD BE A TYPICAL B. B. I. STUDENT?

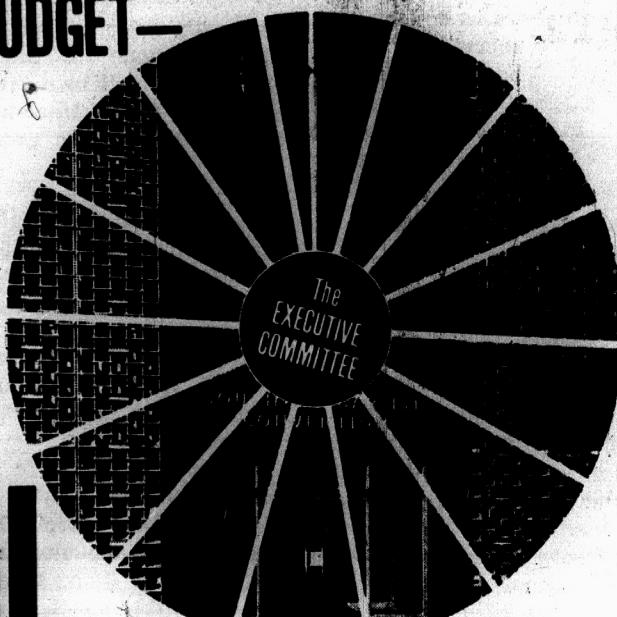
Nobody. We are all different, various ages above 20. Statistically? Age 32, married with three children, no college graduate, but experienced in some business occupation, or skip and win divine call.

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## The SBC OPERATING BUDGET —

## Grease for the Hub of the Wheel



The "Hub of the Wheel"? That's an earthy metaphor, perhaps, but it clearly describes the function of the SBC Executive Committee as the operational center of Southern Baptist Convention activities. And the SBC Operational Budget? It is, indeed, the MEANS to the WAY—the "grease" that keeps the wheel running smoothly. (The SBC Operational Budget provides not only for the budget of the SBC Executive Committee, but for expenses of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and an allocation to the Baptist World Alliance as well.)

## Exactly what is the Executive Committee?

It might be called the "right arm" of the SBC. In reality this Committee is made up of two groups. The governing body consists of 64 pastors and lay persons representing all qualifying states. To qualify, a state must have cooperating churches totaling 25,000 or more members. Neither pastors nor lay persons may comprise more than a 2/3 majority of this group. This Committee meets three times a year to set and review policy and make necessary decisions.

The other aspect of the Executive Committee is a working staff of 16 persons, who on a full-time basis, carry out policies established by the committee of pastors and lay persons. This working staff is headquartered at the SBC Building in Nashville.

Among other duties, the Executive Committee represents the Convention in any legal matters

not specifically assigned to the agencies, carries on the general work of promotion and publicity, presents to the annual meeting of the Convention a comprehensive budget for the SBC and all its agencies, and acts as a coordinator between the Convention, the state conventions, and the agencies. It also provides for expenses of special committees and the cost of maintaining and operating the SBC headquarters building.

Though it plays a vital role in keeping the "Hub of the Wheel" rolling, the SBC Operating Budget uses less than one percent of the total Cooperative Program funds.

In essence, you apply the "grease" to the hub that keeps the wheel running as smoothly and efficiently as possible. You apply it through your church contributions which make the Cooperative Program a reality. You provide the means to the way.



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50th ANNIVERSARY

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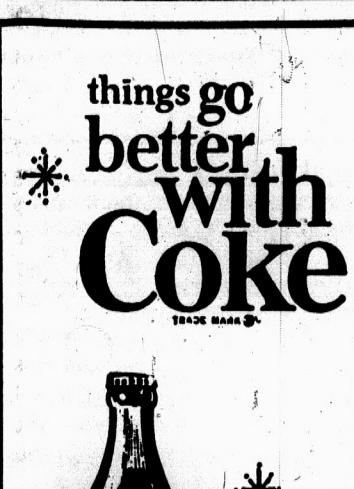
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## Good News Seminar To Be Held June 18

A unique Good News Seminar for residents of the Jackson area will be held June 19 from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with a repeat program to be held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

The Seminar, sponsored by the American Bible Society, will be held at the chapel of the Baptist Building in Jackson, according to Dr. Edwin Robinson, of Jackson, coordinator for Mississippi for American Bible Society.

Principal participants will be Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Dr. Joe T. Odle, editor of the Baptist Record.

Those urged to attend include pastors, educational directors, church librarians, mission action chairmen, social service workers, and any persons interested in distribution of scripture.

The purpose of the Seminar is to cause people to become aware of the Society, to display materials published by the Society and to interpret the use of the materials with special groups such as aging, blind, new readers, youth, evangelism, and others.

No prior registration or cost is involved in the seminar. Dr. Robinson, who is currently the State Coordinator for Volunteers in Mississippi, will direct the seminar. She will be assisted by volunteers who are currently participating in imaginative Scripture sharing projects.

Individuals participating in the seminar will receive attractive Scripture publications published by the American Bible Society.

Dr. Robinson also leads seminars for volunteers throughout the state. She has initiated a variety of projects involving distribution of Scriptures, and speaks to many church groups about the work of the Bible Society.

Dr. Robinson retired in 1971 after serving 27 years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention in Mississippi.

## Ordained In Greenville

David Raddin of Greenville was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 25 by Second Church, Greenville. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Roy D. Raddin of Second Church, Greenville, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Si Corley of Jackson.

The ordination sermon was preached by his father, Rev. Raddin, pastor of Second Church, and the charge to the church was given by Rev. Harry F. Jones, pastor of Salem Church, Learned. The charge to the candidate was given by Rev. Charles H. Locklin, pastor of Westview Church, Jackson. Following the ordination service, the church presented David a Bible and a love offering.

David lived in Anguilla and

## Devotional

### The Privilege Of Prayer

By Jim Vance, Pastor, Calvary, Starkville

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight" (Proverbs 15:8). Most of us have heard and been concerned about prayer all of our lives. As a very small child, I can remember my parents talking about the importance of prayer. I can also remember in that early age asking God to bless those who were sick and facing other problems.

It might seem like a foolish thing for a child to bother God, but I have found years later that the same God that listened to a little child hears those who talk to him today.

Prayer is the greatest opportunity a Christian has. Prayer gives us courage under the greatest circumstances of life and causes us to be in direct contact with God. God encourages prayer. In Psalms 34:10, he says, "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing," and in James 4:3, he says, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

Jesus felt the need to pray and has taught us to pray. He taught us to believe that we must spend much time in prayer if we expect to achieve anything for him. Jesus said, "Ask . . . seek . . . knock . . . For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:8).

## Revival Dates

HOMWOOD (Scott): June 15-

20; Rev. James Fancher, Jackson, evangelist; Ms. Jean Wilkerson, singer; Mrs. Doris Lott, pianist; Sunday services 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with dinner on the grounds; weekday services 7:30 p.m.; Rev. Paul Lott, pastor.

County Line Church, east of Union: June 8-13; services at 10 and 7:30 p.m.; Rev. Clarence Mayo, pastor of Spring Dale Church, Ripley, bringing the messages; Mrs. Alice Faye Davies, Clarke College, pianist; Dennis Williams, song leader; Rev. Dewey Moore, pastor.

Oakland Church: June 15-20; Dr. Fred M. Lawrence, pastor, Maximo Heights Church, St. Petersburg, Florida, evangelist; regular services Sunday; 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. each day; Rev. B. C. Sellers, pastor.

Union, Rt. 2, Brandon: June 15-20; Rev. Foy Killingsworth, evangelist; Leroy Stuart, leading the singing; regular Sunday services; during week at 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Rev. J. A. McCain, pastor.

Fairfield (Jones): June 15-20, regular services Sunday; during week 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Ral-

ph Graves, of Highland, Laurel, evangelist; Wayne McCullough, song leader; Ruth Stringer, organist; Karen Bryant, pianist; Rev. J. F. Sumner, Jr., pastor.

Wiggins (Leake): June 15-20; Rev. Alfred N. Evans of Mt. Home Church, Morganton, N. C., evangelist; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.; Sunday morning, the church will have a note framing service and dedication of the new addition to the building; Rev. Carlton Jones, pastor.

Hesitantly she placed her gift in the plate.

Keeping a wary eye on the usher, she asked her mother where her money was.

"We're giving it to God," her mother explained.

Pointing to the usher, Allison asked, "Is he God?"

Mrs. Huckabee quickly tried to explain the complicated matter.

The next day, Allison, wanting to buy some candy, said to her mother, "I want some money — God got my money."

the afternoon the pastor and family were honored with a reception.

Mr. Meadows began his ministry with First Church, Hazlehurst September 1, 1967 when he was called as assistant to the pastor. Upon retirement of the pastor in 1970, he was unanimously called as pastor.

## First, Hazlehurst Has Pastor Appreciation Day

Recently, First Church, Hazlehurst honored its pastor Rev. George E. Meadows and his family with Pastor Appreciation Day. During special recognition at morning worship, Rev. and Mrs. Meadows were presented a generous cash love-gift. During

the afternoon the pastor and family were honored with a reception.

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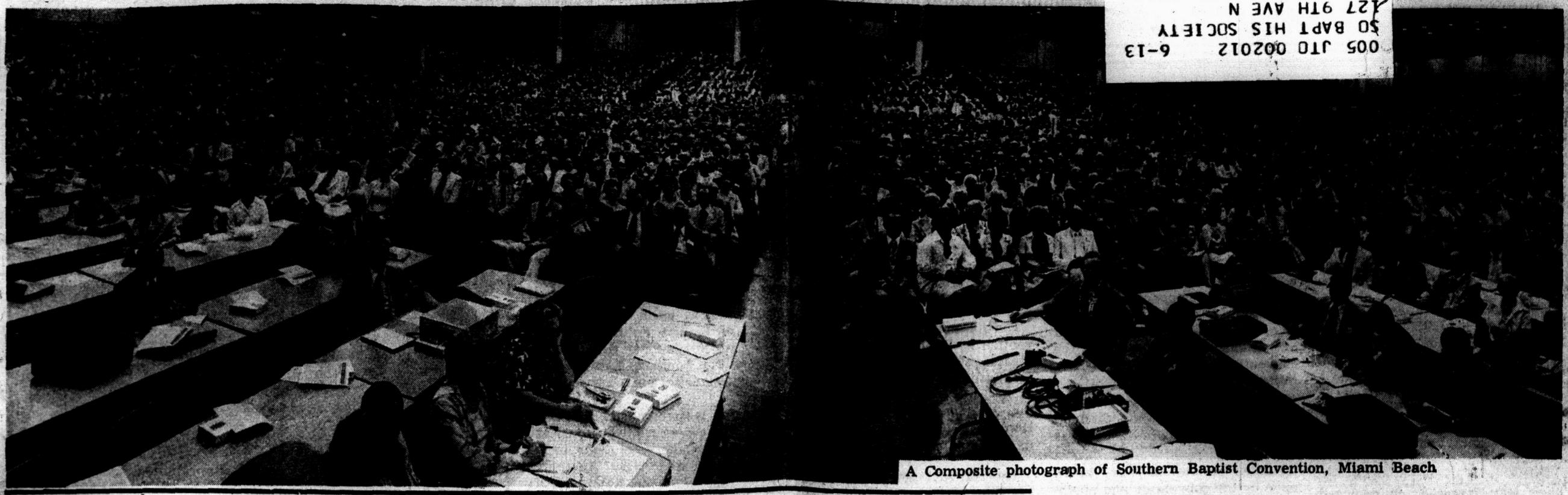
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A Composite photograph of Southern Baptist Convention, Miami Beach

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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## Mississippi Liberty Bell Rings In Calm Convention

By Don McGregor

The Mississippi replica of the Liberty Bell rang out through the convention center in Miami Beach, Fla., last week to introduce each session of the Southern Baptist Convention and provided thrilling moments to what was otherwise a particularly calm meeting.

As Dr. John Lee Taylor of Grenada, Miss., and Rev. Billy Weber of Dallas, Texas, rang the bell for the first time following the president's address by Dr. Jerry Weber of Lubbock, a feeling of excitement moved through the congregation. The messengers responded with a standing ovation and sang the fourth verse of "America." Many proclaimed it a high hour of the convention.

The Liberty Bell replica was presented to the convention by Dr. Joe T. Odle, editor of the *Baptist Record*, in the absence of Mississippi Gov. William Waller, who asked Dr. Odle to represent him.

Another highlight came during the report of the Brotherhood Commission as a 17-year-old Royal Ambassador came into the hall to complete a journey of more than 1,400 miles with a lighted torch in connection with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary.

ary of the Cooperative Program. More than 2,000 boys were involved in the cross-country trek with the torch.

The convention was determined to sidestep controversy and did so adroitly. Some issues persistently reared their heads, however, and messengers sought to take positions on them.

In a number of cases, they were only able to refer the questions to committees or boards, as was the case with a motion to do away with local boards of convention agencies. The complaint was that local board members dominate the actions of the agency boards elected on a nationwide basis. This issue was referred to the Executive Committee but a ballot was required to do so.

Also requiring a ballot was an effort to increase the term of the committee on boards to two years instead of the present one. It was felt a continuation of some members would be helpful to new members beginning service. The action failed.

The convention substituted Kansas City for Memphis for the 1977 meeting site. The closing of several Memphis hotels recently caused the Executive Committee to recommend that the 1977 site be

moved. In 1976 the meeting will be held in Norfolk, Va.; and Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla., was selected to preach the convention sermon. Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., was named as alternate.

President Jerry Weber, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas,

was re-elected without opposition. Named first vice-president was Hunter Riggins, a Virginia layman; and James Monroe, pastor of First Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., was elected second vice-president.

Re-elected recording secretary was Clifton J. Allen of Tennessee. (Continued on page 2)

## Mississippians Elected For Convention Duties

Four Mississippians were named to Southern Baptist boards and commissions during the convention last week in Miami Beach, Fla.

Dr. David R. Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, was elected to the board of trustees of Southern Seminary for a term ending in 1980.

W. D. Lofton, a layman of Brookhaven was named to the Education Commission with his term to expire in 1979.

Rev. Pat Nowell, pastor in Tunica, became a member of the Brotherhood Commission for a term ending in 1979.

Owen Cooper, layman of Yazoo City, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. His term will expire in 1980.

Two Mississippians were elected as members of the Commission on Christian Social Concerns. (Continued on page 3)

## Mississippians And Their Bell Make Impact On Southern Baptist Convention

Mississippi played a large part in the Miami Beach session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Mississippi replica of the Liberty Bell attracted more attention than almost any other feature of the meeting, for it was used at every session. Mississippi humorist, Jerry Clower, was one of the major featured speakers, and spoke to one of the convention's largest crowds.

A Mississippian, Dr. Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg's First Church, was chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and led that committee in the handling of the resolutions which came before the

convention.

Other Mississippians served in various capacities during the meeting and are listed in another story. All represented their state well during the meeting.

The Liberty Bell, which was taken to Miami by permission of Governor Waller and the Capitol Commission, made the trip to Miami Beach mounted on a special truck provided by the Ford Motor Company. Its journey from Jackson to Miami was a circuitous one, for it went by Nashville, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, and then other cities along the East Coast as it jour-

neled south to Florida.

It was presented to the convention for use during its meeting, by Dr. Joe Odle, editor of the *Baptist Record*, who had been requested by Governor William A. Waller, to represent him there.

Resting on the special truck bed which had been prepared for it, it sat throughout the convention by the side of the spacious convention platform.

Its beautiful tones first rang out at the end of the presidential address, on the opening morning of the convention, when President Weber exclaimed at the end of his message, "Let the bells ring again."

In dramatic fashion the bell began to resound with pastor John Lee Taylor of Grenada's First Church, the Mississippian who handled the arrangements for the

use of the bell, being one of those pulling the ropes.

The sound raced across the hall, and electrified the audience which responded instantly with standing applause. The moment set the spirit of the whole convention.

At each succeeding session, the service opened with a special "Let Christ's Freedom Ring" feature, prepared by the Radio and Television Commission being flashed on the giant screens, with its message coming over the speakers. The lights were dimmed as this end, and the Liberty Bell, bathed in spotlights which were turned upon it, began to reverberate with sound. This was considered by many to be one of the most effective symbols ever used on the Southern Baptist Convention.

(Continued on page 2)

## Convention Resolutions Cover Variety Of Subjects

MIAMI BEACH — Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution on world hunger, urging churches to set aside a day of prayer and fasting each month to help meet the problem.

The resolution, which was adopted after brief floor debate, also urged Americans to develop a life style of sharing and to work to replace any tendency toward hoarding.

Messengers also took a stand on

Christian citizenship and voted to continue to support the efforts of the American Bible Society.

A resolution on violence, offered by Floyd Craig of Nashville, Tenn., a staff member of the Christian Life Commission, not only condemned physical acts of violence on television but also decried "the psychological acts of violence such as racism, chauvinism, and economic discrimination."

(Continued on page 2)



The Mississippi Bell Rings

Dr. John Lee Taylor, right, pastor of First Church, Grenada, and Rev. Billy Weber, center, of Dallas, ring the Mississippi Liberty Bell for the first time at the Southern Baptist Convention as President Dr. Jerry Weber of Lubbock concludes his president's address during the opening session.

## Auxiliary Bodies

### WMU

### Pastors

Mississippian Lewis Myers, missionary to Vietnam, presented a Vietnamese family to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; and the Trinh Ngoc Thanh family won the hearts of the women.

Myers made his presentation in the interest of the sponsorship by Southern Baptists of the displaced Vietnamese families in this country.

The women viewed a Cooperative Program drama, a foreign missionary commissioning service, a home missions spotlight on Christian social ministries, and heard other testimonies.

They elected a new president and recording secretary along with at large members of the organization's executive board.

New goals were set for special missions offerings for 1978 and 1979.

Elected president of Woman's Missionary Union was Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., president of the Virginia WMU.

(Continued on page 3)

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — Convicted "White House hatchet man" Charles Colson told more than 13,000 Southern Baptists here how he found Jesus Christ.

Colson traced a life of ambition, of striving for attainment, of achievement and success, leading to his post as one of the top five advisers to President Richard M. Nixon.

The dark-haired man told of leaving the White House in the weeks before Watergate broke and of meeting an old friend who had become a Christian.

Colson said he did not accept Christ just then, but he began to see the temples he had built "slipping away."

It was on an August night in 1973, that Charles Colson wept as he sat parked in his friend's driveway in Washington. Soon, he "asked Jesus Christ to come into my life."

"It was as you so well know not the end of anything except my life."

(Continued on page 2)



SBC Officers '75

Officers elected by the 118th Southern Baptist Convention are (l-r) President Jerry Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock; Hunter Riggins, a layman from Poquoson, Va., first vice-president; and James Monroe, a pastor from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., second vice-president. (SBC Photo by David Clanton)



Pastors' Officers

New officers elected for the Pastors' Conference Monday afternoon include (l-r) Andrew Hall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Delray, Fla., secretary-treasurer; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., president, and Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, vice-president. (SBC Photo by David Clanton)



WMU Officers

Officers serving the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for 1975-76 are (l-r) Mrs. William Ellis, Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary; Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, Danville, Va., newly-elected president and Executive-Secretary Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham. (SBC Photo by David Clanton)

# Liberty Bell At Calm Convention

(Continued from page 1)  
and re-elected registration secretary was W. F. Kendall of Tennessee. Porter Routh of Tennessee was re-elected treasurer.

Kansas City had been the site selected for the 1980 convention. A substitution will be chosen in 1976 at Norfolk. The 1978 session will be in Atlanta, Ga., and the 1979 location is to be Houston, Texas.

The final registration total for this year was 16,212.

Only one item of miscellaneous business was passed at this convention. It was a motion to send a copy of the SBC annual to every retired Southern Baptist minister without cost. This practice was already in effect, though on an informal basis.

Other motions were either tabled, lost, referred, or declared out of order. A motion to limit the term of the president to one year was defeated. The suggestion that a committee study the housing arrangements for conventions was referred to the Executive Committee. Mrs. Richard Sappington of Texas asked that the president call a meeting of men to present a statement of information and guidelines to the agencies of the SBC supplementing the statement of Baptist Faith and Message. This was tabled. Some observers felt she was trying to obtain classification on ordination of women.

A motion that would have authorized the president to appoint a committee to study ways whereby institutions could show more tangible assistance to Southern Baptist pastors and ministers was referred to the Executive Committee. A motion was made to authorize the Executive Committee to have cast a replica of the Liberty Bell and be responsible for its care, but that motion was withdrawn.

A motion that related to all con-

vention-sponsored witness dialogs with Catholics was ruled out of order in violation of bylaw 17 of the convention with the explanation that such comes under the responsibility of the Home Mission Board.

A motion relating to help for ministers involved in problems in family relationships was referred to the Sunday School Board. A motion opposing the construction of buildings for use in pagan worship on government owned land was referred to the convention's Public Affairs Committee.

A motion requesting an interpretation for a part of the statement on Baptist Faith and Message was withdrawn.

Fifteen resolutions were acted upon by the convention and another 14 were not reported back by the resolutions committee for one reason or another.

Resolutions were adopted on the American Bible Society, Christian citizenship, violence, hunger, appreciation for John H. Williams, the use of Mississippi's Liberty Bell (authorized by Mississippi's Howard Aultman), prayer for religious freedom, family relationships (authored by Mississippi's Clark Hensley), religious broadcasting and religious freedom, alcohol, the Holy Spirit, Vietnamese refugees, public school curriculum, Freedom '76, and appreciation to the host city.

The committee of seven persons that had been appointed last year to study the work of the Executive Committee came with a request for a continuation in order to have more time for study with the stipulation that a report be made in time for study by messengers before next year's convention. This was granted.

The same committee was charged with studying the feasibility of a change in the name of the

convention, and it suggested that the name be left unchanged for the present and the study continued for another year. This was accepted. An attempt was made to have the name "Cooperative Baptist Churches" considered, but this failed.

Mississippi and nationally known comedian Jerry Clower presented one of the major addresses before the convention.

During the report by the convention's Executive Committee messengers adopted themes and emphases for the years from 1979 to 1986 and accepted a change in the program statement of the Home Mission Board relating to its Evangelism Division.

The IMPACT 80s plan concerning the theme and emphases for 1979-86 suggests that they be related to "several critical concerns." These include family life, leadership development, Bible study, church plannings, study of Baptist doctrine and heritage, community involvement, mission involvement, church growth, and biblical giving.

The evangelism program statement for the Home Mission Board spells out three broad areas of concern — evangelism development, personal evangelism, and mass evangelism.

Without opposition the messengers adopted a Cooperative Program goal for 1975-1976 of \$51 million.

An attempt to have the messengers take a stand in opposition to "the charismatic movement" failed. A resolution was offered that called on churches to examine personal experience, worship experience, and doctrinal practices in light of the teachings and authority of the Bible. It also urged Baptists to refute "certain

practices and teachings of Neo-Pentecostalism, more commonly known as the charismatic movement whose churches are referred to as 'Full Gospel' churches as lacking sufficient support for acceptance in Southern Baptist Churches."

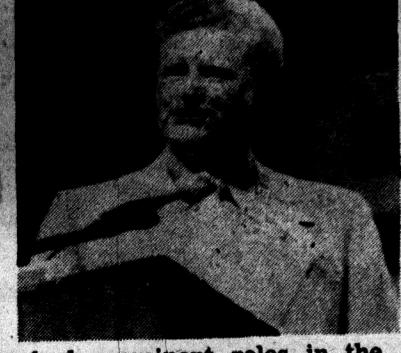
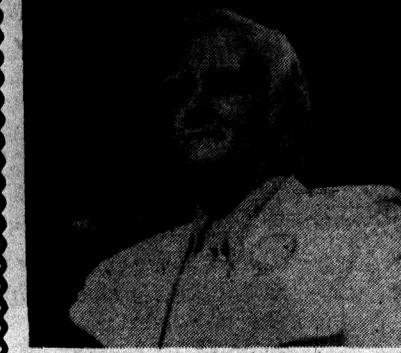
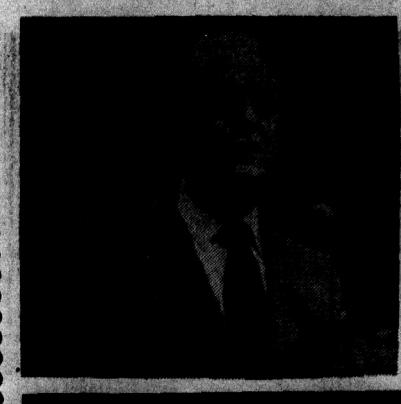
In response the resolutions committee statement presented to the convention simply reaffirmed the 1963 convention's stand on the Holy Spirit as outlined in the statement of Baptist Faith and Message. An amendment was offered stating that Southern Baptists are not charismatic, but this was defeated.

Brooks Wester, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, who acted as chairman of the resolutions committee, declared that "Anything more than this (the statement of Baptist Faith and Message) is less than Baptist and anything less is not Southern Baptist."

During discussion on the resolution concerning public school curriculum messengers were told that courses of study called "Exploring Human Nature" and "Man, a Course of Study" urge "cannibalism, divorce, wife swapping, adultery, abortion, and refusal to submit to the authority of God, parents, and country." They instructed the Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to study the information and report their findings to the 1976 convention.

Two attempts were made to have adopted a stronger resolution on abortion than was the case last year in Dallas. This failed as messengers seemed to feel that stands did not need to be made year after year on the same subjects.

The Mississippi Liberty Bell was used as a signature for the convention as it tolled the closing moments, and the convention was adjourned.



Former Mississippians who had prominent roles in the Southern Baptist meetings in Miami Beach last week were Carl Bates, pastor of First Church, Charlotte, N.C.; Grady Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board; Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary; and Paul Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission.

## Convention Resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

The resolution was referred back to the Committee on Resolutions for re-wording of an amendment which would include another form of violence — "bad language on television, not only in prime but at all times." The amendment was suggested by Rev. Terry Harper of Exmore, Va.

The world witness resolution, presented by Harry N. Hollis Jr. of Nashville, another CLC staff member, also called on government and private agencies to seek ways of sharing agricultural technology with countries needing this help.

It passed after brief floor debate in which Rev. Wayne Stephens, pastor of First Baptist Church, Douglas, Texas, reminded the crowd that "Jesus told us to feed the world with the word of God and as Christians we should put the Gospel out as our primary concern and not be so much concerned with the social aspects of hunger."

The Christian citizenship resolution, presented by C. Welton Gaddy of Nashville, a third CLC staff member, was passed unanimously.

It sought a moratorium on public pessimism with the political process and urged people with Christian convictions to make their views known to decision makers, to accept political responsibilities, and to be willing to run for political office.

Another resolution, passed unanimously, praised the work of the American Bible Society and urged churches to support the society's work "over and above their contributions in previous years."

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention refused to take a position opposing the charismatic movement — gifts of the Holy Spirit — reaffirmed their traditional stance against alcohol, and passed a resolution on television violence that also decried the additional "psychological violence of racism, chauvinism, and economic discrimination."

The resolution originally de-

signed to deal with the charismatic movement was offered by Tommy French, pastor of Jefferson Street Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

It had called on churches to examine personal experience, worship experience, and doctrinal practices in light of the teachings and authority of the Bible.

It also had urged Baptists to refute "certain practices and teachings of Neo-Pentecostalism, more commonly known as the charismatic movement whose churches are referred to as 'Full Gospel' churches as lacking sufficient support for acceptance in Southern Baptist Churches."

The resolution, as returned by the Resolutions Committee and presented by French reaffirmed the 1963 Convention's stand on the Holy Spirit outlined in the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted in Kansas City.

French, who said he wished the resolution could be "more precise and could say that Southern Baptists are not charismatic," nevertheless moved its adoption. During debate, Terry Harper, pastor of Exmore, Va., Baptist Church, offered such an amendment.

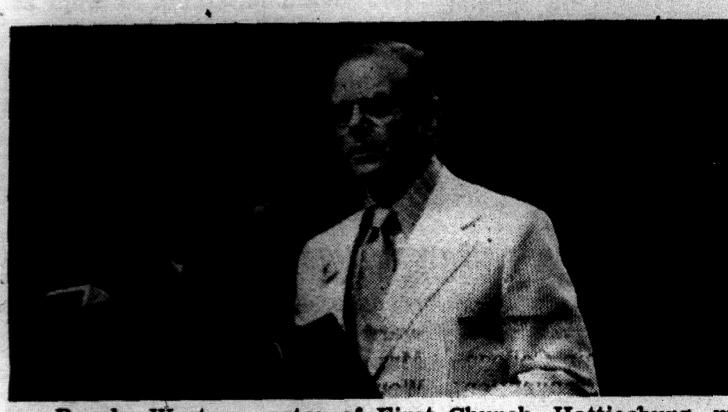
Brooks Wester of Hattiesburg, Miss., chairman of the Resolutions Committee, told messengers the committee had given a big portion of its time to this resolution and called attention to the Baptist Faith and Message statement.

"Anything more than this is less than Baptist," he said. "Anything less is not Southern Baptist. We feel we must not leave here with ruptured feelings but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit return home to win America for Christ."

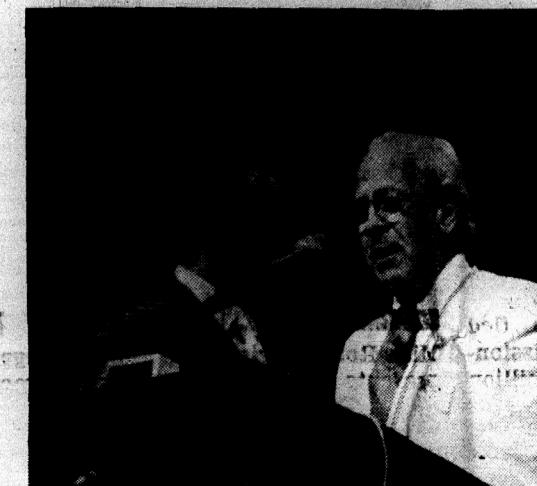
The amendment was defeated and the resolution, as brought out from the committee, was passed.

A resolution seeking vigilance when dealing with curriculum in public schools and authorizing the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Christian Life Commission to utilize its re-

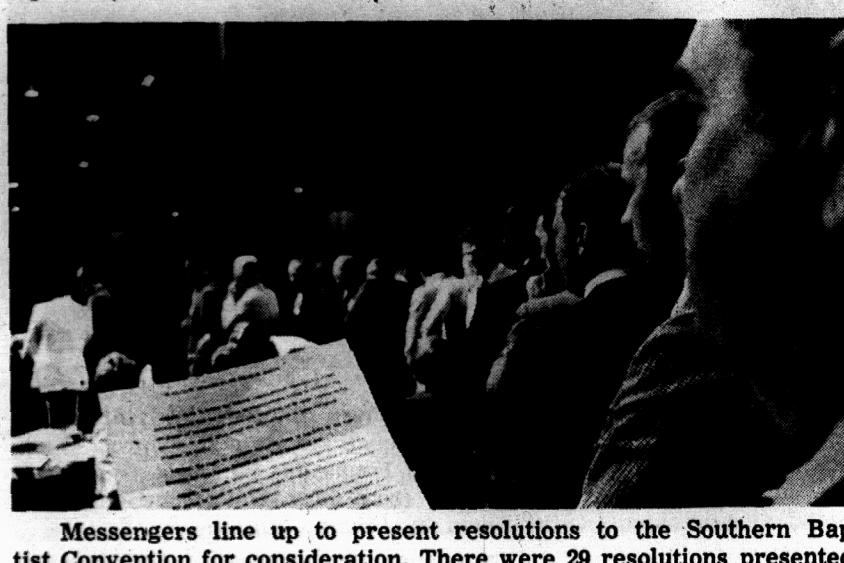
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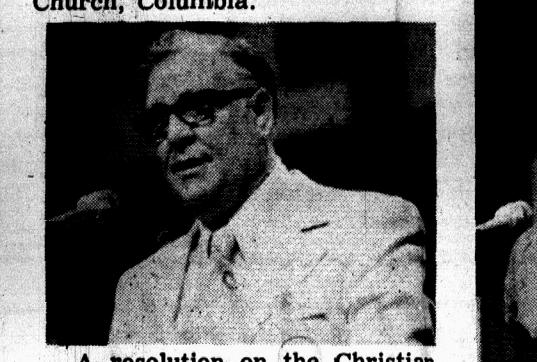
Brooks Wester, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, was chairman of the resolutions committee and is making his report.



Appreciation to Mississippi for the use of the Liberty Bell was the subject of a resolution presented by Howard Aultman, pastor of First Church, Columbia.



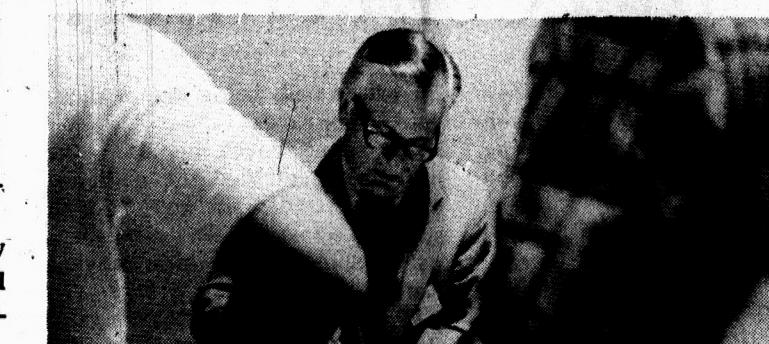
Messengers line up to present resolutions to the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration. There were 29 resolutions presented. Fifteen were adopted.



A resolution on the Christian family was presented to the convention by Clark Hensley of Jackson, executive director of the Christian Action Commission.



Altus Newell, a former Mississippian now a pastor in Kentucky, offers a resolution to the convention.



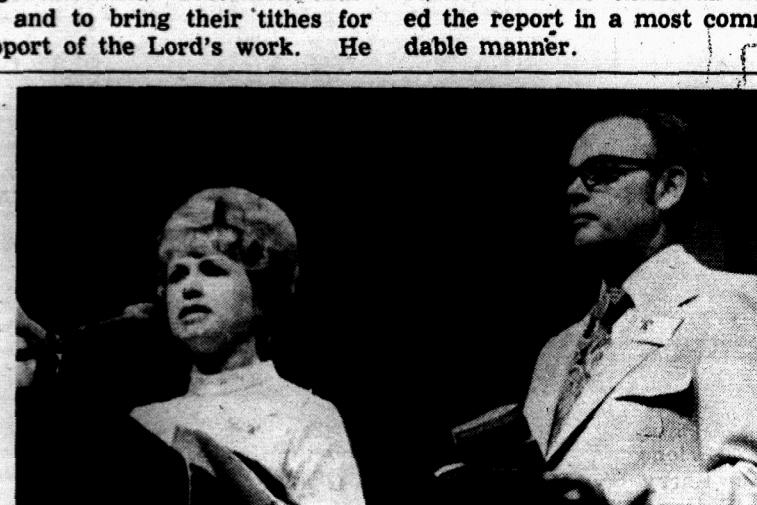
Bob Ramsay, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, checks the credentials of messengers before they register.



Officers elected at the Southern Baptist ministerial wives' lunch on Tuesday afternoon were (L-R) Mrs. Walter N. Stockburger, Norfolk, Va., vice-president; Mrs. W. Leray Fowler, Houston, secretary; Mrs. Robert Franklin, Cairo, Ga., newly-elected president and her predecessor, Mrs. Maurice Clayton, Jackson, Miss. (SBC Photo by Fon Scofield)



The flags of the nations where missions work is carried on adorn the platform during foreign missions night.



Clarification of the statement on Baptist Faith and Message was asked for in a motion presented by Mrs. Richard L. Sappington of Houston. First Vice-President Stewart Simms of South Carolina is presiding.

## Pastors' Conference

(Continued from page 1)  
old life. It was only the beginning — starting out on a long, hard journey."

The journey led through derision, laughter and "pooh-poohs."

It led through courts and congressional testimony. It wound up with Colson stripped naked, a prisoner in Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Montgomery, Ala., where he served seven months for disseminating derogatory information about Daniel Ellsberg.

Colson told of the degradation of prison, but also of the "wonderful joy of seeing Christ at work" in the lives and circumstances of the men imprisoned with him.

The former lawyer talked of his dream of working with people in prison.

"If I have anything that I can leave with you, it is the appeal, the crying I heard of hundreds of thousands of men and women who sit tonight frightened, forlorn and alone in the dark concrete holes of American prisons

"I can only speak to you of the suffering of men's souls, of our less fortunate brothers who need God's work and Christ's love."

He added he counts it all loss — "the White House, the limousines, the yachts, the six figure income, all of it loss compared with the joy of being able to walk this life with Christ Jesus and for this night that you have allowed me to be here with you to experience

the joy and glory we share together in knowing his Life."

Colson, a key speaker in the two-day annual pastors' conference, drew a standing ovation when he completed his talk.

During the meeting, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., was elected president, replacing James Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla.

Rogers is a director of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship a group dedicated to exposing "theological liberals" the denomination employs as staffers and teachers.

Joe Crumpler, pastor of Mt.

(Continued On Page 5)



Charles Colson, convicted presidential aide, fielded questions during a press conference following his talk to the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

# WMU Elects New President

(Continued from page 1)

She replaced Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., who had completed the constitutional limit of a six-year term. She had served a similar term earlier.

In keeping with its emphasis on missions, WMU set goals of \$30 million for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions by 1978 and \$15 million for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions by 1979.

In the home missions focus, Mrs. R. L. Mathis received a service plaque from the Christian social ministries department at the Home Mission Board for her 12 years as president of WMU.

Paul Adkins of the mission board reported more than 5,000 persons made professions of faith last year because of the 300 Christian social ministry missionaries.

Receiving the only standing ovation of the meeting was Mary Edwards Renaker, 87, of Louisville, Ky., who read poetry she had written and gave her testimony. She started writing poetry at 75. She appeared in a presentation of ministries to the aging.

A highlight of the foreign missions thrust were testimonies by a Vietnamese refugee family and a Southern Baptist missionary to Vietnam.

Mrs. Le This Ngoc Lang, who now lives with her husband and two children in Orlando, Fla., said, "We had to escape because Christianity under the Communist regime was a luxury."

Mrs. Ngoc, president of the WMU at Grace Baptist Church in Saigon, and vice president of the Asian Baptist Women's Union, said she and her family were blessed to be in the United States. She expressed concern for her 87 relatives and Christian friends they had to leave behind. Her husband managed the printing department of Baptist publications in Saigon.

Missionary Lewis Myers asked the women to continue among refugees the ministry and witness foreign missionaries started in Vietnam.

"Who would have ever thought that in mission efforts we could have brought to us the very people for whom we have prayed and sent missionaries?"

"Before the missionaries fled Vietnam, there was one missionary family for every one million people. Now in the United States

there are five Christian families who can witness to every one Vietnamese person," said Myers, a missionary to South Vietnam who was on furlough when the country fell to the communists.

After commissioning 18 new foreign missionaries, Baker J. Caughen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, told an overflow crowd of almost 10,000, that "surely as these lay their lives on the altar, it's a moment for us to commit ourselves afresh to God. How do you know that Christ isn't saying to you, I want you too? The answer might be to be a more faithful pastor or worker wherever you are."

Other foreign missionary speakers were Dr. and Mrs. August Lovgren of Jordan and Dorine Hawkins of Brazil. In talking

about their war-torn country, Mrs. Lovgren said, "When there are military confrontations, we find fear, separations, death, sadness, curfews and very real dangers which prevent church meetings, setting the churches back, delaying programs."

The 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program was celebrated by the WMU with a pageant and testimonies by people who are directly affected by Cooperative Program funds.

"I believe you are telling me that Jesus is the only solution for the world when you give to the Cooperative Program," said Nilson Fanini, pastor of First Baptist Church, Niterol, Brazil. He gave a first-hand account of how Cooperative Program funds are used overseas and urged this support to continue.

"When I see Russia, China, and many countries of Southern America, I see more missionaries of Communism than I see of Christianity."

In her first report as executive secretary of WMU, Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham expressed hope WMU would be stronger to meet the needs of women as well as the need for more missionary education in churches.

"In 1975, in the Southern Baptist Convention, the feminine segment of our denomination remains one of the great untapped resources," she said.

"Woman's Missionary Union can offer women today an avenue through which they can give expression to their love for Christ and their concern for his people," she continued.

Opening the annual meeting was Florida Governor Reuben Askew who urged the crowd to take more initiative in expressing their faith.

"Time and time again we call upon ministers and missionaries to do our job," he said.

He said Christians are willing to sell almost anything — automobiles, washing machines — "but sometimes we're too reluctant to share the greatest thing that ever happened to us."

While acknowledging his strong belief in the separation of church and state, Askew reminded that "citizenship cannot be separated from Christianity. What may be wrong with this nation is the sum total of what's wrong with us as individuals."

Baptist young women were represented on the program by Diana Moore of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. Everett Deffine, Baptist Young Women director of Arizona WMU; and Kitty Blisit, a Home Mission Board US-2 missionary in Waterbury, Conn.

Mrs. Gregory, in accepting the WMU presidency, said, I want to say I am following a pro (Mrs. Mathis), but you will have to accept me for what I am: plain, earthly, but loving missions with all my heart."

Also elected were Mrs. William W. Ellis of Shelbyville, Ky., recording secretary; and Mrs. Edward Byrd of Florence, S. C., and Mrs. Huber Drumwright of Fort Worth, Tex., members-at-large of the WMU executive board.

Eight married couples and two single women were commissioned as Southern Baptist missionaries at the opening session Sunday night of the Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist Pastors' Conferences. Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, presided over the service. Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy L. Barrentine of Crystal Springs, Miss., were among those commissioned. (SBC Photo by Warren Johnson)

## Mississippians Elected For Convention Duties

(Continued from page 1)

committee on Boards for report at next year's convention in Norfolk, Va. They are E. L. Howell, director of the Brotherhood Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and James N. Roberts, layman from Oxford.

Mississippians were active in affairs of the convention this year. Serving as members of the Committee on Committees were Dr. Howard Aultman, pastor of First Church, Columbia, and W. R. Roberts, Annuity Board representative for Mississippi.

Dr. Brooks Wester, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, was a member of the Resolutions Committee and served as its acting chairman due to the inability of the stated chairman, Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma, to serve.

Dr. Bob Ramsay, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, was a member of the Credentials Committee.

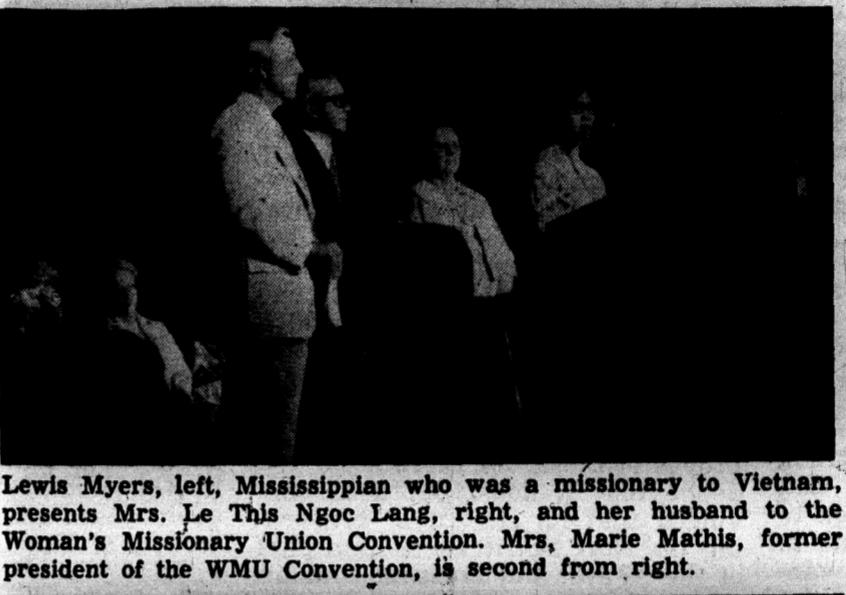
Working with the tellers during this session of the convention were Dr. Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church, Columbus; Dr. P. A. Michel, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven; and Dr. John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada.



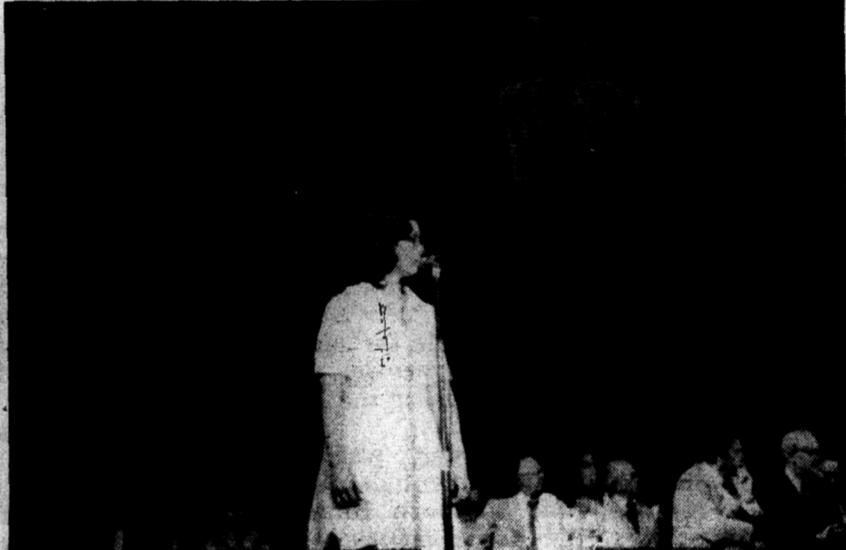
James G. Harris, pastor of University Church, Fort Worth, and president of the Foreign Mission Board, reports during foreign mission night at the convention.



John Williams, who will retire after 15 years as convention manager, was honored by the convention in the form of a resolution and a plaque.



Lewis Myers, left, Mississippian who was a missionary to Vietnam, presents Mrs. Le This Ngoc Lang, right, and her husband to the Woman's Missionary Union Convention. Mrs. Marie Mathis, former president of the WMU Convention, is second from right.



Miss Robbie Crissey of Florida, a graduate of Blue Mountain College, presents her testimony during Woman's Missionary Union Convention. She will go to Paraguay.

## Mississippians And Former Mississippians In Miami Beach



Miss Thelma Williamson, right, of the Mississippi Sunday School Department visits with pastors Charles Myers, second from left, of Alta Woods Church in Jackson and Mrs. Myers and James Street of First Church, Wiggins.



Joel Ray, director of missions for Lebanon Association and a faculty member at William Carey College, left, is a visitor with, second from left to right, Lewis White of the Sunday School Board; John Barnes, pastor of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg; and S. R. Woodson, retired former pastor of First Church, Columbus.



Mrs. Bryant Cummings of Jackson, center, walks the halls with Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hudgens of Jackson.



Harold Anderson, superintendent of missions for Lee County Association, center, and Mrs. Anderson chat with G. L. Ford, pastor of Bissell Church.



Old friends visiting during the convention were, left to right, James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City; Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department; Joe Canzoneri, pastor of Hickory Ridge Church in Rankin County; and Mr. and Mrs. George Canzoneri, former Mississippians now living in Florida.



Joe Abrams, left, former associate editor of the Baptist Record, and Mrs. Abrams, second from left, are engaged in conversation with W. R. Roberts, Jackson, center, Mississippi representative for the Annuity Board, and Rev. and Mrs. Estus Mason of Crystal Springs.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL

### "Let Christ's Freedom Ring"

The tongue of the Mississippi Liberty Bell was loosed during the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach, and its clear tones inspired Baptists who were assembled there to follow the convention theme, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring!"

For nearly twenty-five years, the bell, which is an exact replica of the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Penn., had rested in silence in front of the Mississippi capitol building in Jackson.

In order to protect the bell from vandals and others who would be tempted to ring it, the clapper had been fastened so that it could not move. It was a beautiful bell, with a glorious musical tone, which simply had not been rung for many years.

Then at the request of the Southern Baptist Convention the bell was taken from the base which had held it so long. It was secured to the bed of the especially prepared truck provided by the Ford Motor Co., and made its way from Jackson to Miami, taking a circuitous route to visit many historic places, meaningful both to national and Baptist life.

In Miami Beach its voice was heard as at session after session, it called the messengers to order for convention program and action.

Under the banner, "Let Christ's Freedom Ring," the bell symbolized the ringing out of the message of Christ to the whole world which was the convention theme at Miami Beach, and is the heart of the whole Southern Baptist program.

The annual convention this year was a typical meeting of the messengers from the churches of the huge body. More than 16,200 persons actually registered, and other thousands were present as visitors.

Two things stood out as one sought to get an overview of what was happening in the Miami Beach meeting. They surfaced throughout the sessions.

One is that the Southern Baptist Convention is comprised of Bible believing, conservative people, who refuse to veer from their center of the road conservatism, either to the right or to the left. They are neither ultra-conservative nor liberal, but must be classified as a theologically conservative, Bible accepting people.

The second impression was that the convention's main interest is the proclamation of the message of Christ to the whole world. It does this through the vast program of evangelism and missions and the numerous institutions and agencies related to that task.

These two items, a Bible believing faith, and a purpose to share the gospel with all men, are the un-

ifying forces which tie these people and churches together.

The messengers in Miami Beach celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the budget which supports their whole mission program, and adopted the largest financial goals of their history.

The program moved smoothly from session to session, with a theme that centered in Jesus Christ and the freedom which He provides for all who believe in him.

The convention spent little time in debate. Actually, no really divisive issue came up for discussion.

The messengers adopted strongly worded resolutions concerning several matters such as war, violence, distribution of the Bible, etc., but refused to change the stand on abortion taken several years ago, and refused to accept a motion which would have expressed reaction against the Charismatic movement and speaking in tongues. This does not mean that the convention approves of these, for there is no evidence that it does, but it is convinced that its statement concerning the Holy Spirit which is a part of the "Faith and Message" adopted in 1963, and reaffirmed in a resolution adopted this year, clearly expresses the Baptist position on the Holy Spirit.

The strong conservative stance of the convention messengers, was evidenced by the election as president of the Pastor's Conference, of Dr. Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. Dr. Rogers is one of the most outspoken conservatives in the convention. There was a run-off vote for second place, but many persons felt that he was elected by a clear majority on the very first vote.

Any careful observer, watching the actions of the convention, quickly realizes that Southern Baptists continue as the strong conservative body they always have been, and that liberalism is having little influence. There even is evidence that seminaries and other institutions are listening to the convention's voice as it has spoken in recent years, and are seeking to keep the institutions and agencies right in the middle of the conservative position the convention holds.

At the Miami Beach convention, Dr. Grady Cothen, new president of the Sunday School Board, avowed the purpose of that agency to remain completely loyal to the Word of God. Dr. Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, stated in the current issue of the Southern Seminary "Tie," "My Bible is true and trustworthy. It is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and thereby I can know who God is and what he has done and what is in-

tentions are for me in my world. . . . Yes, my Bible is true. I am going to live by it; I am going to die believing it and trusting the Savior I have found through it; I am going to live eternally with the God who inspired it."

As we said, most Southern Baptists are convinced that these and other men who have been chosen to head up their institutions, along with the elected boards of trustees who control them, are endeavoring to keep them the conservative, Bible based institutions, the convention has clearly indicated that it wants them to be.

This does not mean that every Southern Baptists would completely agree on the method God used in inspiring the Bible, for they never have done that. Nevertheless, there evidently are few amongst them who do not affirm that the Bible is the Word of God, and who do not accept the New Testament as the final and sole authority in all matters of doctrine and church polity. Southern Baptists are a Bible believing people, with their whole program based upon this fact, and it is clear that they intend to continue to be that.

One of the safeguards which prevents liberalism or other non-Biblical teachings or activities from becoming entrenched in Southern Baptist life is the freedom of every Baptist, of every church, and of Baptist editors and other leaders, to speak openly and critically when doubtful situations appear. This makes for a healthy denominational life and keeps the programs at the center of the will of the majority.

As far as we heard every note sounded at the Miami Beach Convention was in the positive conservative theological position which is the hallmark of Southern Baptists. The whole program centered upon the program of proclaiming to a lost world the message of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptists in Miami did not take spectacular action, but neither did they engage in divisive debate.

This was a convention session of unity.

It was a convention of optimism in the midst of world crisis.

It was a convention of earnestness of purpose.

It was a convention of forward looking planning.

There was dedication to the task of a continually enlarging witness to Christ.

The Mississippi Liberty Bell helped set the tone of the Miami Beach Convention as it stood as a symbol of the liberty we have both as Americans and Christians.

It seemed to be calling all Southern Baptists to continued effort and advance for Christ, as they "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."



"THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD,  
THE FATHER WHO IS THE  
ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS,  
AND THE END OF OUR  
BEING; ONLY ONE LORD,  
JESUS CHRIST, THE  
CREATOR OF ALL THINGS,  
WHO IS OUR WAY TO HIM."  
— I COR. 8:6  
(KNOX TRS.)

JACK HAMM

## APPROVED APPROACH

### On The MORAL SCENE...

ALCOHOL IN THE CAPITAL — Experts on alcoholism, statistics on drinking and recovered alcoholics within the Washington establishment all indicate that alcohol abuse pervades life along the Potomac. . . .

A study by American Business Men's Research Foundation of Lansing, Mich. . . . said . . . that Washington has the highest alcoholism rate in the country. . . . Associated Press interviews . . . produced the common observation that many of those minding the nation's business drink more in Washington than they might elsewhere. . . .

"There's not an agency of government that doesn't have a problem," said former Sen. Harold E. Hughes, a recovered alcoholic who is now a religious lay-worker here. . . . Two certainties in life in Washington—pressure on people in high places and the stand-up cocktail party—appear to contribute to the high rate of alcoholism. —(Greensboro Daily News, May 11, 1975)

### TV VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN —

The impact of TV on American society, especially children, is pervasive. Ninety-six percent of American homes have one or more TV sets and the average set is on more than 6 hours a day. Most children watch at least 2 hours daily. Recently the American Psychological Association has suggested that watching violence on TV by children can lead not only to their acceptance and toleration of such behavior but the incorporation of media initiated antisocial responses in their everyday behavior. It is well documented that exposure to film violence can increase the likelihood that young children will exhibit aggressive behavior. Yet, violence in TV cartoons has been increasing and the adult orientation of prime-time television has been increasing — (Congressional Record H2854, April 16, 1975)

### UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRIME —

Economists believe high unemployment will be with us for at least the rest of this decade, that the rate will rise even higher before it begins to come down, and that the general public seems prepared to tolerate high unemployment for some as preferable to inflation for all. . . . Americans ought indeed to "ponder the implications of the apparent link between rising unemployment and rising crime."

In 1974, as a declining economy progressively forced people out of work, the rate of crime rose by 17% nationally, compared to a rise of only three fourths percent in 1973. The rate of violent crime doubled, the rate of property crime tripled, and the link to rising unemployment was suggested by the facts that crime rose the most in the last three months of the year, as did joblessness; that cities with the most unemployment had the biggest rises in the rate of crime; and that the crime rate increases were reflected most sharply in muggings, robberies, and assaults — the crimes of the street, where poor and unemployed persons often make their way. . . . (The Nashville Tennessean, Sat., April 26, 1975, p. 4)

### OBJECT LESSONS FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH —

by Wesley T. Runk (Baker, paper, \$1.95, 104 pp.) Objects such as report cards, puzzles, and bottle caps are used to teach lessons to youngsters that spur them to grow in knowledge of the Lord.

1400 BIBLE FACTS: A QUIZ BOOK by E. C. McKenzie (Baker, \$1 pp., paper, \$1.95) In the Bible, what is the big toe called? Who kissed a beautiful girl and wept? There are 1400 such questions in this fascinating quiz book, each documented with a Scripture verse.

TIMELY OBJECT LESSONS FOR CHURCH GROUPS by Vera Hutchcroft (Baker, paper, \$1.95, 95 pp.) A collection of 24 lessons using everyday objects to reinforce lesson truths.

WE LIVED WITH DYING by Margaret Woods Johnson (Word Books, 128 pp., \$4.95) In seven months before he died of cancer, a Lutheran minister and his family faced death and themselves. Their faith in God and surety of life beyond death sustained them. Here the widow writes of their experience.

### Light for Living

Chester E. Swor

### Chameleon Christians

As you know, doubtless, the chameleon is a little creature which changes the color of its exterior to match its surroundings—a sort of "protective coloration," preventing its standing out in contrast to colors around it. What is a clever and protective gift of nature to that little creature becomes deplorable when practiced by the Christian to "hide his colors" for fear of his crowd.

Chameleon Christians are not only a liability to Christianity, they are the unhappy Christians. They have caught a disease of genuinely spiritual living and are aware that only those who live Christ's teachings consistently, going deeper in discipleship all the time, are the happy victorious ones. Yet, they cling to the "things of the world" and conform to the world in instances in which their world is wrong. They move from the warmth of spiritual experiences back into a merry-go-round of worldliness—from warmth to chill, from chill to warmth, wanting both, divided in love and loyalty—actually miserable. When they "change colors" to match their worldly surroundings, they cannot fully respect themselves, because they know that they are being disloyal to their better knowledge.

The happiest Christians are those who have committed themselves totally to Christ. They have integrated their lives in Christ and his teachings; they are committed to the fulfillment of HIS purpose and mission in their lives; they "wear their colors" with warmth, humility, and happiness in all circumstances; while living constructively and creatively in the world, they are not of the world. And, to the amazement of the chameleon Christians they have found happiness, meaning, power, joy, and influence beyond any measure the chameleons imagined possible in the committed life.

Peter had one unfortunate chameleon experience — on the night of Christ's trial. In taking on the color of the crowd he cursed and swore and denied Christ. His chameleon experience was short-lived, however, for almost immediately he went outside and wept in bitter remorse. Thereafter, the clear light of his life shone with an unfailing brilliance and power. CALLING ALL CHAMELEON CHRISTIANS: ONLY BY FOLLOWING PETER'S EXAMPLE FROM CHAMELEONITIS TO COMMITTED CHRISTIAN LIVING WILL YOU FIND JOY!

(Published by special arrangement with Dr. Chester Swor, 902 Whitworth Street, Jackson, Mississippi)

## The Baptist Record

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### NEWEST BOOKS

### 1975 Foreign Mission Graded Series Released

SICK AND YE VISITED ME by Franklin Fowler, for Adults (Convention, 121 pp., \$1.10); CLIMB ANY MOUNTAIN, for Youth, by John R. Cheyne (77 pp., 65c); ALL-STAR PITCHER, for Older Children, by Rosalie Hunt (80 pp., 75c); WALK, EDDIE! for Younger Children, by Pauline Patterson (32 pp., 65c) For each of these books in the 1975 Foreign Mission Graded Series, there is a teaching guide available from the Baptist Book Store. All deal with the subject of medical and benevolent ministries. SICK AND YE VISITED ME was written by the medical consultant of the Foreign Mission Board and makes a complete statement of the biblical authority and Christian motivation for the "health care ministry" as mission. The Appendix is a photo album of Southern Baptist medical missions around the world. CLIMB ANY MOUNTAIN by Dr. John Cheyne tells the story of the Southern Baptist mission in Ethiopia. ALL-STAR PITCHER is the story of a Little League pitcher from Taiwan who faces a difficult decision that can cause him to miss a trip to the United States and who finds a new friend, a boy who has had polio. WALK, EDDIE! is about a crippled Mexican boy whose Baptist friends help him to go to a hospital to have his legs straightened.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WOMEN'S LIB edited by Miriam G. Moran (Keats, \$1.50, paper, 118 pp.) Fifteen Christian men and women present an encouraging and affirmative view of women's rights, roles and duties. This book gives fresh, authoritative insight on the Bible and what it has to say about men and women.

THE DATING GAME by Herbert J. Miles (Zondervan, paper, 168 pp., \$2.95) Herbert Miles is a former Baptist pastor who for a number of years has been a professor at Carson Newman College. He has specialized in the field of marriage and already has written a number of important books in that area. This one deals specifically with the courtship years and discusses the many issues involved. Chapters deal with the nature of love, the beginnings of courtship, whom one should date, going steady, the parents in courtship, engagement, special problems, the pros and cons of sex during courtship (Dr. Miles strongly disapproves), planning the wedding ceremony and planning the honeymoon. The author has counseled with thousands of young people and made careful study of all the relationships of courtship and marriage. This is a splendid book to help them have clear understanding of what courtship should be.

A TREASURY OF W. GRAHAM SCROGIE edited by Ralph G. Turner (Baker, paper, 220 pp., \$3.95)

Selections from the works of a British minister of the 20's, 30's and 40's. There are sermons, Bible notes, addresses, lecture notes, meditations, etc.

HOW YOU CAN SUCCEED AS A CHRISTIAN SECRETARY? by Jean L. Hansens (Sword of the Lord, paper, 119 pp., \$1.50). Here are some very timely and valuable tips for the Christian secretary, on subjects such as "you and your boss," "your dictation," "how do you look?" "are you fun?" "your leisure time," "your personality and basic skills," "your goals," "the extra effort," and

"your job hunt." The author is secretary to Rev. Ron English, circulation manager of The Sword of the Lord.

RELIGIOUS ROULETTE AND OTHER DANGEROUS GAMES CHRISTIANS PLAY by Merle Allison Johnson (Abingdon, paper, 143 pp., \$2.95) A Methodist preacher takes a close look at some of the claims being made today concerning prayer and healing, tongues, baptism of the spirit and others. He says that faith is being misinterpreted and claims concerning spiritual gifts are being misused. This is a searching book which raises real questions. It may be shocking to some, but it will be enlightening and helpful to most.

PLAIN TALK ON GENESIS by Mansfield George Gutzeck (Zondervan, paper, 143 pp., \$2.95) The widely known Presbyterian Bible teacher provides another volume in his series of studies of the Bible. His messages evidently have been used in radio talks for they are uniform in length and clear in approach. Dr. Gutzeck believes that the Bible is the Word of God and in his plain talk seeks to explain what the scripture says and means.

OBJECT LESSONS FOR CHURCH GROUPS by Vera Hutchcroft (Baker, paper, \$1.95, 95 pp.) A collection of 24 lessons using everyday objects to reinforce lesson truths.

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TIMELY OBJECT LESSONS FOR CHURCH GROUPS by Wesley T. Runk (Baker, paper, \$1.95, 95 pp.) Object lessons for a year of Sundays, including special days of the church year.

# Torch Ceremony Highlights 50th Anniversary Celebration

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — A lighted torch carried by a 16-year-old boy arrived at the Miami Beach Convention Center here Tuesday night, June 10, to culminate a 1,400 mile relay and open the celebration by Southern Baptists of the 50th anniversary of their Cooperative Program unified giving plan.

The appearance of Keith Troutman of Concord, N. C., was greeted with a roar and applause from more than 15,000 messengers who

earlier had approved a record national Cooperative Program budget for 1975-76 of \$51 million.

Troutman was the last of some 2,153 Southern Baptist boys, members of Royal Ambassador (RA) groups in churches, who had relayed the Cooperative Program torch 1,468 miles from Memphis.

The torch symbolized the Cooperative Program, a unified giving plan to support Southern Baptists' work in such areas as home and foreign missions in 50 states and



Keith Troutman of North Carolina, a Royal Ambassador, carries the lighted torch into the auditorium at Miami Beach to complete the journey for the torch from Memphis in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

## Pastors' Wives Hear Criswell

By Mary Ann Ward

MIAMI BEACH (BP) — The Southern Baptist Conference of Ministers' Wives heard W. A. Criswell talk about the woman's role in the church, then elected new officers at their 20th annual meeting here. The group is an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Elected officers of the ministers' wives for 1976 were Mrs. Robert L. Franklin of Cairo, Ga., president; Mrs. Walter N. Stockburger of Norfolk, Va., vice-president; Mrs. W. Leray Fowler of Hous-

ton, Tex., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. John Ramsey of Washington, D. C., recording secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Maurice Clayton, wife of the pastor of Hillcrest, Jackson, was president of the Ministers' Wives Conference this past year, and presided during this meeting.

Mrs. Joyce Covington and her daughter, Joye Lynn, of Hillcrest, Jackson, presented special music.

Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Michel, pastor and wife from First Church, Brookhaven, participated in a dialogue at one session.

## Convention Resolutions

(Continued From Page 2)

sources to keep the public aware of issues was passed after an amendment was tacked on by H. A. Markham, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Fairburn, Ga.

Markham cited instruction courses which he said were introduced by the National Science Committee and the Educational Development Center of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He claimed they taught fifth and sixth graders things that were "detrimental to Christianity." Referring to courses of study called "Exploring Human Nature" and "Man, A Course of Study," he said they urged "cannibalism, divorce, wife swapping, adultery, abortion, and refusal to submit to the authority of God, parents and country."

The Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs were instructed to study the information and report its findings to the 1976 convention.

The alcohol resolution urged churches to work to eliminate the advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio and television. (Self-imposed regulations adopted by the broadcast industry presently allow only advertisements of such low alcohol content beverages as some wines and beer. Advertisement of "hard liquor" is not presently allowed on the broadcast media.)

The resolution on alcohol also called on churches to teach its dangers and to minister to victims of its abuse.

In a resolution on freedom of religious broadcasting the Convention stated its support of the existing Federal Communications Commission policy in "protecting the rights of religious groups and representatives to engage in religious broadcasting" and urged the Commission to continue the policy.

It also called on the Baptist Joint Committee to continue its vigilance in behalf of religious freedom.

Other resolutions touched on family relationships, prayer for religious freedom, and concern for Vietnamese refugees.

Denominational agencies were urged to give top priority to providing Christian family living resources, and churches were instructed to teach monogamy (one marriage) and provide compassionate help for couples facing marital problems.

The resolution on prayer for religious freedom called on Baptists to renew their commitment to pray and fast for persecuted



Historic Messenger

Sam R. Eden of Rome, Ga., Route 3, resident manager of Floyd County Association Baptist Camp, made Southern Baptist history. Eden became the 500,000th messenger to register at the convention since 1845 when the SBC first met. W. Fred Kendall (L), SBC registration secretary from Nashville, Tenn., welcomed Eden to the 118th meeting.

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83 countries, theological education, evangelism, and Christian social action.

Charles Farmer, Baptist layman from Tulsa, Okla., accompanied the torch runners in an escort van equipped with warning lights, first aid materials and other safety supplies.

Southern Baptists originated the Cooperative Program at their annual meeting in Memphis on May 13, 1925. They contributed about \$5 million through the unified giving plan the first year.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the SBC's Brotherhood Commission which arranged for the torch run, and Michael Speer, associate executive director of the Stewardship Commission, lauded Southern Baptists for their increased gifts the last 50 years.

McCullough also described the torch run from Memphis and Speer led in the signing of a declaration of cooperation involving state executive secretaries. More than one million Southern Baptists have signed the document.

Cooperation was the emphasis of the session which opened with an address by Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

McCall suggested that the convention's beginning was not in Augusta, Ga., (1845) or in Philadelphia, but rather in a baptistry in Calcutta, India, when Luther Rice committed himself to the Baptist mission cause.

Lynn E. May, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, traced the convention's financial difficulties prior to the Cooperative Program from the founding of the convention in 1845 to the Memphis convention in 1925.

A re-enactment of the Memphis convention was presented by a cast from Miami's Central Baptist Church. The drama was directed by Paula Milton, professor of speech and drama for the Miami-Dade Community College, North, Miami.

Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, former SBC president, retired pastor and retired state Baptist paper editor, asked, "What is the secret of it all?"

Answering his own question, he said, "Remember how the Cooperative Program was born in prayer, has grown in prayer and will continue to be the lifeline of the Southern Baptist Convention through prayer."

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, concluded, "As we come to the climax of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, we need to remind ourselves that the Cooperative Program is a channel through which we respond to the challenge from God to share Christ throughout the world."

Messengers also recognized the efforts of John H. Williams, retiring this year after 15 years as assistant treasurer and director of financial planning for the SBC Executive Committee.

Another resolution called on churches to encourage participation of college students and young adults in Freedom '76 in December, a bicentennial gathering sponsored by more than a dozen denominational agencies, designed to present innovative Christian approaches to citizenship, vocation, the home, and the church's mission.

A resolution of appreciation to the State of Mississippi and its governor, William Waller, for the loan of that state's replica of the Liberty Bell was passed. The replica remained near the platform of the Convention Hall and was rung to signal the opening of each session.

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Thursday, June 19, 1975

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



SBC Newsroom Staff

Each year at the Southern Baptist Convention a Press Room is provided for both the religious and secular press. Complete coverage is given of the convention and all auxiliary meetings, enabling all media to receive stories, pictures, and other materials to provide full reporting of the convention. This excellent service is under the direction of W. C. Fields, and he is assisted by a large staff of trained workers, assembled from numerous convention agencies.

Members of the Southern Baptist Convention newsroom staff in Miami Beach, Fla., are (front row, l-r) Lix Poitras, Janet Kelly, Cindy Reich, W.

C. Fields, Robert O'Brien, Jim Young, Roy Jennings and Pat Wittenbarger. Second Row (l-r) are Doug Tonks, Paul Craig, Becky Fields, Marye Jennings, Charles Yates, Claude Cox, Peter Powell, Gloria Cox, Colleen Martin, Pat Newton, Larra Druin, Grace Atchley, Catherine Allen, Mary Ann Ward, Libby Fields, Christy Fields, David Risner and (Third Row l-r) Ed Malone, Robert Russell, Stan Haste, Dan Martin, Shirley O'Brien, Jim Newton, Theo Sommerkamp, Orville Scott, Lawrence Webb, Charles Warren, W. Barry Garrett, Bonnie Sparrow, Fon Scofield and Floyd Craig. (SBC Photo by Doug Brachey)

## Colson Speaks To Pastors

(Continued From Page 2)

Carmel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio was elected vice president, and Andrew Hall, pastor of First Baptist Church of Delray Beach, Fla., was named secretary-treasurer.

A bevy of top speakers, including three former Southern Baptist Convention presidents, treated the pastors to sermons on the "High Calling of God."

W. A. Criswell of Dallas, Carl

Bates of Charlotte, N. C., and R. G. Lee of Memphis, Tenn., spoke on the various aspects of the pastor's life.

One speaker flailed the "pharisaical creedalists" of the SBC.

Russell Dilday, pastor of Second - Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., noted there is disagreement within the convention and said "inability to handle them in a Christian manner often threatens the fellowship of the convention and churches."

"I believe we have too many

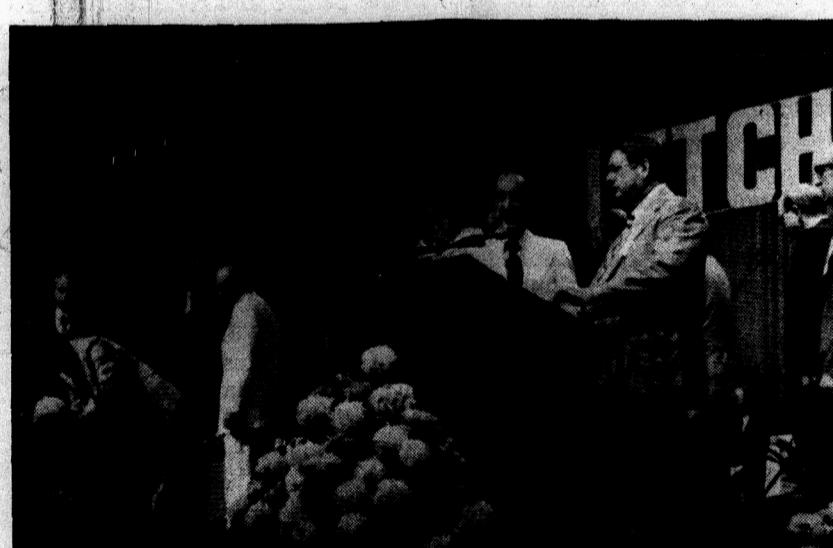
groups checking on the orthodoxy of other groups. I believe we have too many pastors lurking to catch their brother pastors in some error. I believe we have too many pharisaical creedalists wasting precious time in a 'ministry' of casting the note from other people's eyes."

John Claypool, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, urged the ministers to get more actively involved in their communities. He called this activity essential for authentic ministry.

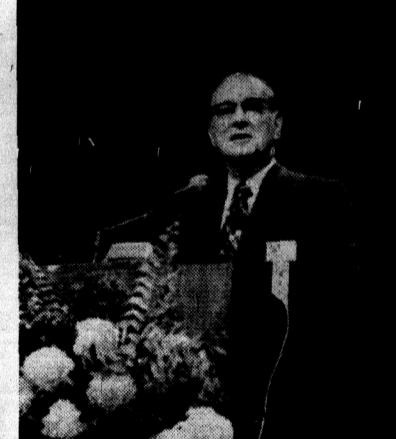
## Convention Personalities



Jerry Clower of Yazoo City was the featured speaker on Thursday morning.



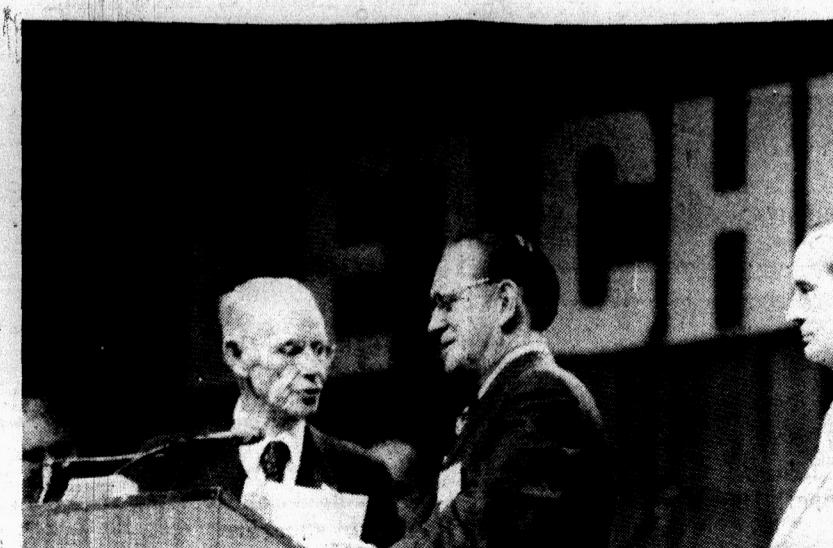
Mississippi Baptist Convention President James Richardson, at left, bends over to sign the Cooperative Program Declaration of Commitment while John Alexander, at right, director of the Stewardship Department for Mississippi, waits to announce his name to the convention audience.



Joe T. Odle, editor of the Baptist Record, acted for Gov. William Waller, who was unable to be present, in the presentation of the Liberty Bell to the convention. Convention President Jaroy Webster and Little Rock Pastor W. O. Vaught were made colonels on the governor's staff and Mississippi Pastor John Lee Taylor was given a certificate of appreciation for their parts in arranging for the bell to be used at the convention.



Vonda Kay Van Dyke, former Miss America, used a messenger for a "dummy" as she charms the convention audience.



Sam R. Eden of Rome, Ga., Route 3, resident manager of Floyd County Association Baptist Camp, made Southern Baptist history. Eden became the 500,000th messenger to register at the convention since 1845 when the SBC first met. W. Fred Kendall (L), SBC registration secretary from Nashville, Tenn., welcomed Eden to the 118th meeting.



Serving as pages during the Southern Baptist Convention were Mark Taylor of Grenada, left, and Russ Smith of Jackson.

## Names In The News

Marcus Peagler of Richland Church was awarded the Melodi McElroy Music Scholarship for 1975-76 at Clarke College. Music and youth minister at Hickory Church, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Peagler of Florence and the grandson of Mrs. Lola Eason of Lake and Mrs. Lenneye Peagler of Morton.



Susan Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian L. Clark of Jackson, is the new music and youth director of Center Hill Church, Hamilton. She graduated in May from Mississippi College.



David Manasco was ordained to the gospel ministry, and James Browning was ordained as deacon, at Desoto church (Clarke) on Sunday, June 1. Rev. J. E. Sanders, former pastor, delivered the ordination sermon; Melvin Donald presented candidates with Bibles; Rev. Wilson Boggon delivered the charge to the candidates; Rev. T. E. Williams delivered the charge to the church; Rev. L. J. Fairchild, interim pastor, was moderator.



Directors of Woodland Christian School, Phenix City, Alabama, have appointed Rev. Jack W. Kinley as Headmaster. Mr. Kinley is a 1967 graduate of William Carey College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education. He served as pastor of Rolling Creek Church, Route 1, Quitman, from 1965 until 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Errol Simmons, missionaries to Spain, may be addressed at Antonio Cordero 17, Madrid 33, Spain. The former Mary Ishee of Mississippi, she was born in Jones County.

Rev. Gene May has been licensed to the ministry at Cason Church, Amory. A student at Blue Mountain College, he is available for supply or full-time work. He is married and has a two-year-old daughter. Rev. James Rutledge is the Cason pastor.

Tommy Peters has been licensed to the ministry at Cason Church, Amory, in Monroe County. Director of the bus ministry at Cason, he plans to enter Blue Mountain College this fall. He is available for supply or for trustees.

Nancy Chamberlain, missionary journeyman to Argentina, has completed her two-year term of service and returned to the States (address: Rte. 3, Grenada, Miss., her hometown).

Ernestine Ferrell, music consultant for the State Department of Education, Jackson, has accepted the invitation to direct the Elementary Teachers Workshop in Music at Blue Mountain. Miss Ferrell, a music specialist in elementary schools, is a former student of Blue Mountain College. The Blue Mountain College Elementary Teachers Workshop in Music will be held June 23-27, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Paschal Student Center on the campus.

Rev. Larry Tapp who twice has served as pastor of East Howard Church, Biloxi, once prior to his college training and then since graduating from college in Kentucky, has resigned the East Howard Church to assume the pastorate of Bellhaven Church, Jackson County.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Redmon, missionary to Costa Rica, recently received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College, Clinton. She is the former Jo Eubanks of Pontotoc County, Miss.

be observed by Village boys and girls beginning this year are: the period extending from July 19 to August 3 for Group I; the period from July 26 to August 10 for Group II; and the period extending from August 2 to August 17 for Group III. Mrs. Nowlin has indicated that boys and girls in virtually every age range with the exception of pre-schoolers, are available for placement during each of these periods of time, and that a total of approximately 100 children and young people remain without placement and uncommitted for the holiday season at the time of her announcement.

Administrative and Social Service staff at The Children's Village, which is the official Mississippi Baptist Child Care agency, are urging private homes and families, who can supply the unqualified endorsement of a Southern Baptist church, through its pastor, to write or telephone the Social Service Department at The Baptist Children's Village, requesting placement of a boy or girl for one of the three designated holiday periods. Homes and families who have served as hosts to Village children during either a summer or Christmas holiday in the past need not furnish references, according to Mrs. Nowlin.

According to Village sources, hundreds of Mississippi homes and private families form lasting and meaningful relationships with Village children and lend an added sense of love and worthwhileness to their private family circles by opening hearts and homes to Village children each summer and each Christmas. Mr. Nunnery and Mrs. Nowlin have emphasized their belief that the difficulty currently being experienced by the Village in scheduling summer holiday homes may be resolved if all Village friends understand that they may choose among three different holiday periods, under the new plan released in the announcement.

Individuals or groups desiring further information may write: Mrs. Claire Nowlin, ACSW, The Baptist Children's Village, P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213, or telephone Mrs. Nowlin in Jackson at 922-2242.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on June 18 at the Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko.

Mr. Williams was a member of First Baptist Church, Kosciusko.

Survivors other than Mrs. Clayburn include son, James Williams of Kosciusko, and two grandchildren.

His wife preceded him in death last year.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Wayne Frederick, missionaries to the Leeward Islands, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Bolte Postal 312, Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, French West Indies). Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969, he was pastor of Trinity Church, Laurel.

Rev. Gene May has assumed his duties as minister of education at Petal-Harvey Church in Petal. He was pastor of Richburg Church prior to his new position. Mr. May is a graduate of William Carey College and has been attending New Orleans Seminary.

Dr. Dick Brogan, Director of Cooperative Ministries With National Baptists, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was awarded a Certificate of Recognition "for services rendered in the field of Christian Education" by the East Mississippi State Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress. The Congress met in Savannah Grove Baptist Church in Meridian. Rev. James C. Chandler, president of the Congress, made the presentation. Others given recognition were Dr. T. B. Brown, president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary; Dr. S. L. Richmond, director of Sophia Sutton Mission Assembly; and Dr. William P. Davis, retired director of National Baptist ministries.

Rev. Larry Tapp who twice has served as pastor of East Howard Church, Biloxi, once prior to his college training and then since graduating from college in Kentucky, has resigned the East Howard Church to assume the pastorate of Bellhaven Church, Jackson County.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Jacobs missionary associates in the Windward Islands, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P. O. Box 174, General Post Office, Roseau, Dominica).

### J. D. Lundy Has Heart Surgery While In Miami

Rev. J. D. Lundy, Greenwood, Director of Missions for Holmes and LeFlore Associations, became ill in his hotel room in Miami Beach, Fla., on Monday, June 16, immediately after arrival for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting, and was taken to the Baptist Hospital in Miami for observation. Later in the week he was removed to the American Hospital where he underwent open heart surgery on Friday evening. He is now in intensive care, and doctors have said that he should be able to be flown home after about two weeks.

Mrs. Lundy and his daughter are with him, and his son has visited him. On Monday Mrs. Lundy reported that he is getting along well, and that the doctors seemed to be well pleased with the progress he is making. She asked the Baptist Record to express their appreciation for the prayers of the people and for the many expressions of interest which friends have given. She said that they may be reached by addressing the American Hospital, Bird Road, Miami.

Mrs. Clayburn is secretary to Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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Mr. Williams was a member of First Baptist Church, Kosciusko.

Survivors other than Mrs. Clayburn include son, James Williams of Kosciusko, and two grandchildren.

His wife preceded him in death last year.

He served as associate pastor in charge of the young people's program and as director of the youth choir at Woodstock Church in Memphis. At Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis, he served as minister of music.

For one year, he served as volunteer worker at Frayser Church in Memphis as a volunteer worker; it was during his stay at Frayser that he received his license as a Baptist minister.

Silver, for the past nine years president of Chesapeake College, a community junior college in Wye Mills, Md., succeeds Harold E. Lindsey who resigned.

F. Russell Bennett, director of associational administration services for the SBC Home Mission Board, will become director of field education at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., effective August 1.

The new president of the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi Baptist Hospital, Donna Dukes, is a first-year x-ray student. She received her associate in arts degree from Hinds Junior College, where she was a senior beauty, head majorette, featured twirler and runner-up for Miss Hinds Junior College, as well as a member of the women's executive council of the student body. She was a member of Pearl High School Band for six years, as first-chair clarinetist.

Philip W. Duncan of Mantachie, is the new pastor of Arkadelphia Church, Evergreen, Alabama. He has completed one year at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla., studying for the diploma in theology. This is his first pastorate. Mrs. Duncan was a graduate of Pearl High School for six years, as first-chair clarinetist.

Mike Carr, graduate of William Carey College, is the new youth director at First, Gulfport, Dr. John Taylor, pastor. He goes to Gulfport from Caseyville where he was associate pastor. This fall he will enter New Orleans Seminary.



### Bluff Springs Gets Help

The Mississippi Baptist Convention has contributed \$2,500 to the Bluff Springs Church of Pike County which lost its building recently in a fire. The money came from the Disaster Relief Fund which is part of the Cooperative Program. Presenting the check to, from left, Robert Knippers, treasurer of Bluff Springs, and Rev. Donald Tharp, pastor, are Rev. David Millican and Rev. Glen Williams, members of Pike County Baptist Association and representatives of the Mississippi Convention. (Photo by Gene Phipps)

### Calvary, Columbus Calls Pastor And Minister Of Music

Rev. Jerry W. Stevens, pictured, has moved to Calvary, Columbus, as pastor, from First, Nicholson.

In the three years he was at

Nicholson the church had 50 professions of faith and 65 additions by letter.

Mr. Stevens received a master

of divinity degree in church administration in May from New Orleans Seminary and a B.A. degree in 1972 from Blue Mountain.

In 1974 he travelled in Turkey, Greece, and Israel and received a certificate for the study of archaeology from Tel Aviv University for his participation with others from the seminary in the Tel Aphek Excavation.

Mr. Stevens is married to the former Bonnie Pierce of Tupelo,

and the couple has two girls, Sheri and Traci. They reside at 2312 Fourth Avenue North, Columbus.

Eddie Cox has moved from Memphis to assume the position of minister of music and youth at Calvary.

He served as associate pastor in charge of the young people's program and as director of the youth choir at Woodstock Church in Memphis. At Whitten Memorial Church, Memphis, he served as minister of music.

For one year, he served as volunteer worker at Frayser Church in Memphis as a volunteer worker; it was during his stay at Frayser that he received his license as a Baptist minister.

For the past eight years, he has worked with the Memphis Park Commission as assistant director of one of the community centers and helped coordinate the "Good Fellows" program.

### MC To Give Awards For "Service To Humanity"

As Mississippi College approaches its Sesquicentennial year, the Trustees and Administration have decided to recognize 150 persons in the state and nation who exemplify the anniversary theme, "150 Years of Service to God and Man."

The recognition of these individuals will be through a "Service to Humanity Award" and will be based on contributions to church, community and state or any activity which has demonstrated a humanitarian service. The committee, which will remain anonymous, has developed a nomination form to be used by those who would like to present a candidate for one of these awards. At the present, forms are being distributed among faculty, alumni, and denominational groups.

Those wishing to submit a nomination to be considered for one of the awards should contact Dr. Walter G. Howell of the History Department at Mississippi College who is acting as the secretary for the committee. Dr. Howell is also serving as chairman of the Special Events Committee for the Anniversary Year.

After a six-year search for land in Port Bouet missionaries here have permission from the director of a military camp to build a small temporary church on the outside edge of the camp. The frame building will serve a small group of Christians who have been meeting in the courtyard or the shade of a house. Finances for the building were made possible by the Washington-Madison Baptist Association's Youth Camp at Siloam Springs, Ark.

## Homes Needed, To Provide Holidays

### Village Announces Flexible Summer Plan Of Visitation

The Social Service staff at The Village's Flag Chapel Division Campus near Jackson were fixed. Village staff frequently remind friends that "summer holidays" have additional meaning for children and youth in resident care at The Children's Village, because of a long, happy and rewarding tradition which involves the placement of each boy and girl or young person in Village campus care into a selected, private home for a period of approximately 15 days during the summer months. Child care professionals and studied observers of Children's Village life agree according to Mr. Nunnery, that this exposure to private living, under selected and controlled conditions benefits boys and girls who must live in group care, particularly in social and emotional areas of their lives, and generally, keeps them in touch with the "real world" about them.

Superintendent Nunnery has stated that the visiting habits and privileges of Village children, including the summer holiday plans, remain the responsibility of the Village's Social Casework staff, supervised and directed by Mrs. Nowlin. Mrs. Nowlin has revealed that the three holiday periods to

... the Gold Medallion, assuring homeowners of modern living at its finest... and Ratty Kilowatt, symbolizing an investor owned company helping build Mississippi.

**MIDDLE SOUTH UTILITIES SYSTEM**  
MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT  
Helping Build Mississippi

**TWO SYMBOLS OF QUALITY**

**THE TOTAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
LIVE BETTER  
AWARD

**MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT**  
Helping Build Mississippi

**MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT**

# The Value Of The Bible Is Discovered In Reading It

By Wm J. Fallis  
Psalms 19:7-14; 119:9-11,105,130  
Matthew 4:1-11

During World War II several stories were told of some fighting man whose life was saved when a bullet plowed into his pocket Testament. Surely the man treasured that book, but another book of the same thickness and no printing probably could have stopped the bullet just as well. The value of the Bible is not in stopping bullets, it is in communicating God's message to its reader. Some people seem to feel that they

must own a large number of Bibles, as though just having them in hand would accomplish something important. The value of the Bible is discovered in reading and understanding it — to the extent of its changing one's way of life.

#### The Lesson Explained IN PRAISE OF GOD'S LAW (Ps. 19:7-11)

The first part of this psalm praises the God of creation; the second part praises the Lord who reveals himself in his law. That "law" was more than the Ten Commandments; it included the covenant and the revelation of the Lord to his people — the first five books in the Old Testament. Because the law is complete, it al-

ways gives new life. Because the Lord's instruction is dependable, it makes wise those willing to learn. He who obeys God's rules can rejoice in their rightness. Because his commandment is clear and bright, a man can see where he walks. "Fear" in verse 9 may include worship; because it is not mixed with any foreign substance, it will last. The decisions of the Lord are just and always fair.

As though he realized some people might not appreciate generalities, the psalmist compared the value of God's law with fine gold and the taste of them with the honeycomb. God's servant is warned by God's laws. Living by them brings real satisfaction. Here is part of purpose of the Bi-

ble, to give guidance and motivation for living.

#### ARMED WITH GOD'S WORD (Matt. 4:1-4)

Although Jesus did not need baptism as a symbol of repentance, he went through it to identify himself with John and also with the people. Afterward the Spirit led him into the wilderness where he spent forty days thinking about the commitment he had made and the kind of Messiah he expected to be. It was a grueling vigil, and when he was desperately hungry, a thought came to his mind. If he was really the Son of God, he could change stones to loaves of bread! Immediately he realized that the thought was a suggestion from the devil, and

Jesus answered it by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. Bread alone is not enough for a man; he must also feed on the words of God.

The devil had suggested that Jesus could become a "bread messiah" and win a following by satisfying men's physical needs. But Jesus found his answer in the Old Testament.

#### USING HIS WORD TO CONQUER EVIL (Matt. 4:5-10)

Satan quickly made another suggestion and bolstered it with a quotation from Psalm 91:11-12. What a demonstration that would have been: Jesus plunging from the top of the Temple and being saved from injury by a band of angels! But again Jesus replied from Deuteronomy (6:18). No one

has the right to put God to a foolish test. Jesus refused to be a mere miracle worker.

The third temptation was a bold challenge: worldwide political power if Jesus would admit Satan's superiority. Of course Jesus wanted to influence the nations of the world; he could even deliver Israel from Rome. But another verse from Deuteronomy (6:13) provided the last sharp thrust to vanquish the tempter. As a boy Jesus had learned his lessons well, and into manhood he had found deeper meanings for the ancient words. Now on the threshold of his lifework he had used God's Word skillfully in resisting temptation.

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

# Paul And Barnabas In Missionary Outreach

By Bill Duncan  
Acts 13:1 to 14:27

From creation to 1830, it is reported, that the world population crawled to one billion. In the next 100 years the number moved ahead to two billion. But during the next 40 years the population leaped. By the year 2000 barring a world disaster — the figure should be six billion. Presently the population is increasing 60 million a year.

Presently the population in the United States has one birth every 7½ seconds and only one death every 17 seconds. This gives the United States a net increase of one person every 12 seconds.

Is Christianity keeping up with the pace in the population race? No, population is outstripping Christian growth in all denominations at the tragic ratio of 6 to 1. It is reported that by the year 2000 that if the population grows at the present rate, Christianity will compose less than 2% of the world's population.

Meanwhile, Americans spend 3 billion annually on pets. While humans are dying from spiritual and physical hunger, pets never had it so good. Luxury items for pets now include color shampoos, perfumes and nail polish in ten fashionable shades. But who cares if souls are dying?

Most people say that modern missions began with William Carey in 1792. It was through Carey that there came an outburst of general missionary zeal and effort such as had not been seen since the days of the apostles. It was the inauguration of a new era of united, organized, systematic operations which have continued.

But the date of Christian missions goes back to 44 A.D. when the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." However, Mark tells us that many people had an active part in the extension of the gospel. Many went because of the persecution that scattered the church. The people who were present at the first Pentecost went back home to many distant lands giving testimony. What happened at Antioch in the act of the church was different from anything that had happened before.

Glover in his book, *The Progress of World Wide Missions* defined Christian Missions as "the proclamation of the gospel to the unconverted everywhere according to the command of Christ." Missions implies three essential factors, viz., a sender, one sent, one to whom sent. At Antioch the church was sending Paul and Barnabas to be spokesmen on behalf of the church. The group gave support in a spiritual way to the missionaries.

Some people have developed a unique attitude toward missions that creates a false front to service. Albert Schweitzer, missionary physician, biographer, philosopher, and surgeon, turned his back on wealth and prestige when he sailed from Africa in 1913. An old abandoned hen house was his first hospital, an old camp bed his first operating table. On the trip to the United States, a reporter asked him, "Dr. Schweitzer, have you found happiness in Africa?" He replied, "I have found a place of service, and that is enough happiness for anyone."

The mission of the church is to give. To give its young adults in service. To give its support in money to keep the life line extended. Hildale Park Presbyterian Church in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey, is typically suburban. Confronted with growing pains, members planned to build a fan-

tier and larger building. A building fund drive raised \$18,000. Then Hildale Presbyterian ceased to follow the pattern of most suburban churches. Elder A. L. Behrens, a boiler salesman asked politely, "How can we justly spend so much money on ourselves when Christians in other parts of the world have a greater need?" The pastor, Rev. A. L. McGinnis, and members pondered and prayed about the question. They decided to give their building fund — every cent of it — to build a new wing on a mission hospital at Rio Verde, Brazil.

The Christian church decided to take the message out to all the world. It was a step taken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At Antioch where there was a crossroads for the world, in a n

people of different backgrounds discovered "togetherness" in Christ. The success of Cyprus showed to the church that the career had not turned back. Up to this time Paul is called Saul. As he fully accepted his mission as the apostle to the Gentiles, he determines to use only his Gentile name. This indicates a change in the life of Paul. From the written record it seems that Paul also assumed the leadership of the expedition.

The mission work at Lystra was unique. There was no synagogue (indicating that the Jewish population was very small), so Paul and Barnabas witnessed and preached on the streets to the Gentiles.

Paul noticed a man in the audience and fastened his eyes on him.

(Continued On Page 8)

He perceived that the man had faith to be made whole. Paul shouted to him: "Stand upright on thy feet." At this, the man leaped up and began to walk.

The reaction of the crowd on the street was that they thought the gods had come to earth.

Barnabas, who was probably the older, was called Jupiter. Paul, the spokesman for the team, was called Mercury, the messenger of the gods and spokesman for Jupiter.

The religious leader wanted to offer a sacrifice to the men.

Paul and Barnabas did not understand all the commotion. When they did understand, they began to stop the reaction with a message.

The subject is God. There is but one God and He is a living God and He is creator of all that exists.

(Continued On Page 8)

## Revival Dates

Dixie, Hattiesburg; June 22-27; services at 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7:30 nightly; Rev. James L. Odom Mt. Vernon Church, Jasper, Ala., evangelist; Graham Smith, Temple Church, Hattiesburg singer; Rev. Wayne G. Berry, pastor.

Good Hope (Madison): June 25-29; Rev. Ed McDaniel of First, Durant, evangelist; several featured guests in song services; homecoming and dinner on the ground on June 29; Rev. Walt Grayson, pastor.

Union (Franklin): June 22-27; Rev. Wiley Reid, pastor of Friendship (Lincoln), evangelist; Rev. Lonnie Williams of Bethesda (Jefferson), song leader; Sunday at 11 a.m. with dinner on the ground and an afternoon service; during week at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Rev. John C. Graves, Jr., pastor.

Mt. Nebo (Newton): June 22-27; Rev. Lonnie Alexander of Coldwater, Philadelphia, evangelist; Hank Huffman of Philadelphia, music director; Rev. Carl Wayne Burns, pastor; Homecoming Day on June 22, with lunch at the church and special service at 1:30 p.m. to include Cemetery Association report, memorial services, remarks from former pastors, and a song service by the "Neighbors."

Fannin Church: June 22-27; Rev. Gary Watkins, pastor of Pine Church, evangelist; Ron Rainier, minister of music at First church, Pearl, in charge of music; Bobbie Collum, pianist. Regular services on Sunday: 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Rev. Carl E. Talbert, interim pastor.

### Brewer Calls Pastor

Rev. John Stevens has accepted the pastorate of Brewer Church and has moved on the field. Mr. Stevens moved from Priceville Church, Lee County, where he was pastor 1970-1975.

A native of Pontotoc County, he attended Clarke College. He and his wife, Ruby, have a daughter and son.

The Stevens' were welcomed to their new home by a fellowship reception and a grocery pounding on May 11.

Rogers, the featured entertainer that week, will tell "Crossroads" listeners about "McIntosh and T. J.", the movie he's come out of semi-retirement to make.

He expects to begin filming early in June at Four Stars and Pitchfork ranches near Guthrie, Texas. It will be his first movie in several years.

"Country Crossroads" co-host Jerry Clower will have a vignette role, playing himself, in the film.

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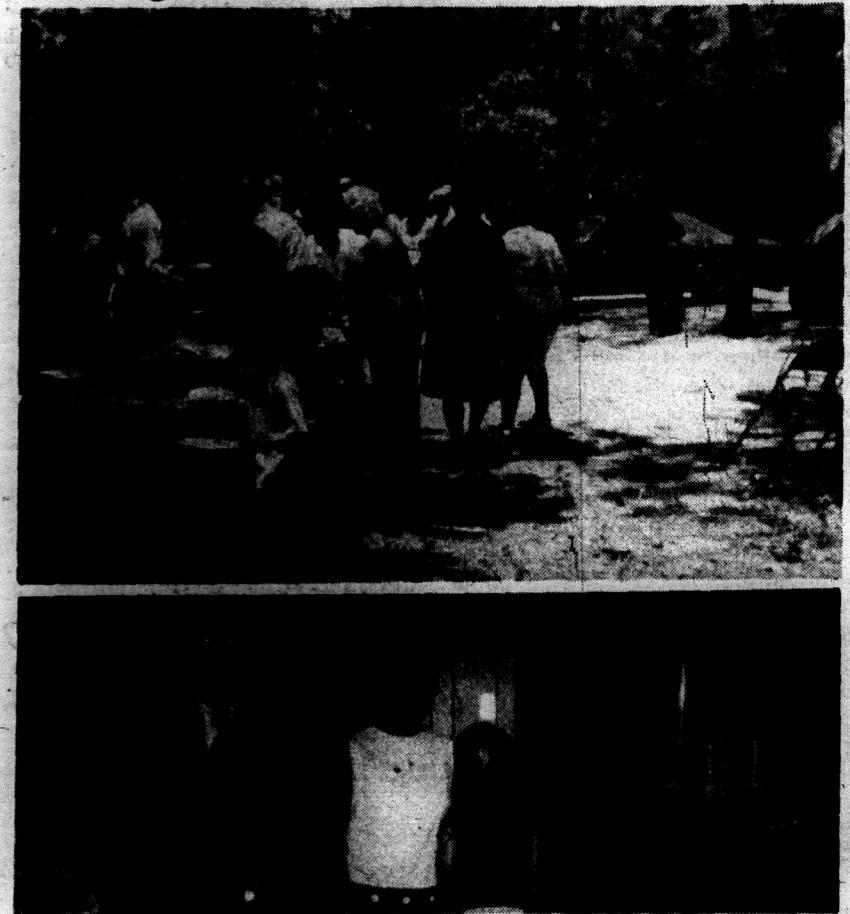
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FIRST CHURCH, BEAUMONT, recently held a note burning ceremony in their beautiful debt-free sanctuary. Rev. Frank Hendry, pastor, assisted by Trustees W. E. Powell, J. R. Smith, E. H. Webb, T. W. Daniels, Ben F. Snider and J. E. Dunkley, performed this task. Alvin Small, trustee, was unable to be present for the ceremony. Dinner was served at the church, adding to the festivity of the occasion.

#### Mississippi Newsbriefs

## Just For The Record



Pine Crest Church at Star on May 18 had their first baptismal service and dinner on the ground. In the past two and one-half months the church has had thirty additions. They are now meeting in a trailer, but plan to build soon. Baptismal candidates, and

the pastor, are in bottom photo, l to r: Rev. Tom Jackson, pastor, Mrs. Bobbie Finnegan, Cindy and Cheryl Finnegan, and not pictured: Mr. and Mrs. Pat Fitzgibbon, Richard Neely, Mrs. Scarlet Foreman, and J. M. Norwood, age 72.

#### Devotional

### God's Promises

By Jim Vance, Pastor, Calvary, Starkville

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escape the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:4).

The Word of God is filled with promises for all occasions—promises of comfort in times of sorrow, promises of strength in hours of trial and temptation, promises of light for dark days. All of these and many more are to be found as we search and study God's Word.

One cannot fail to get joy from just reading the promises of God. If we would make a practice of reading the Bible and marking the promises in red, then we could find them quickly in time of stress.

Every promise in the Bible will be fulfilled if we will carry out the conditions. Our Heavenly Father promised so many wonderful things to his children, but always the fulfillment of his promises depends upon our willingness to meet the conditions under which those promises can be realized.

God's Word has precious promises

He's waiting to fulfill  
With gladness, hope and confidence,  
To those who do His will.

—J. T. Bolding

#### Edwards Completes New Facilities

Edwards Church has recently completed a building program. There has been an increase in the membership during the past year, Sunday School and Training Union. A special award has been presented by the Church Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The church has increased in giving to the Cooperative Program and Hinds-Madison Association. And, the new budget, which has almost doubled, has increased its gifts even more this year. Every goal was topped in regard to mission gifts. The past year three men were



Edwards Church has recently completed its building program. New facilities include a nursery and Sunday School rooms and a new pastor's study. The rest of the church has been renovated completely, including carpet, heating, plumbing, and air-conditioning. A dedication service will be held soon. The pastor's study has been completely furnished, as a gift from the deacons.



Wildwood, Clinton, Has Ground Breaking

Shown is a part of the congregation of Wildwood, Clinton, on Ground Breaking Day, May 4. Following dinner on the ground, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the \$100,000 first unit of a long-term building program. About 200 were present. Shown are members of the Building Committee, the pastor, Rev. David T. Cranford; and chairman of deacons, Robert Castle. Wildwood, Clinton's newest Baptist church, is on Spring Ridge Road, south of Clinton.



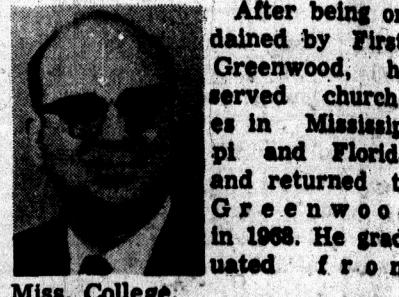
First, Macon, CT Achieves Recognition

THE CHURCH Training Department of First Church in Macon, was recently recognized. Hugh Poole, pastor, and also associational Church Training director of Noxubee Association, presented the Church Training Program Achievement Certificate to Mrs. Lloyd Pugh, director, First, Macon was among the first in the state to achieve the Merit, Advanced, and Distinguished Certificate. Being recognized left to right are Dr. Walter Anderson, chairman of deacons, for having completed a study on "The Study Of The Deacon"; Mrs. Lynn Martin, who led a study for the ladies, "Being A Deacon's Wife"; Mrs. Pugh; Rev. Poole; R. S. McCrory, Outreach division leader, and Hillary Hazlip, Church Training secretary.

Concord Church, Franklin County, recently ordained four deacons — Paul Gill, W. H. Cowart, Jimmy Burris, and Johnnie Buie.

#### Harrisburg Enters New Sanctuary

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, entered their new sanctuary on Sunday, June 1. All their services were held in it on that day. Also that Sunday marked the beginning of the church's use of the new Baptist Hymnals. Dr. Robert Hamblin is pastor. Aubrey Gaskin is minister of music; Ulvie Fitts is assistant pastor.



Morgan City

#### Calls Futral

Morgan City Church, Morgan City has announced the selection of Guy C. Futral as their pastor. Mr. Futral has been living in Greenwood the last seven years and pastoring Leflore Church, Grenada County.

After being ordained by First, Greenwood, he served churches in Mississippi and Florida and returned to Greenwood in 1968. He graduated from

Miss. College.

He and his wife, Mary Sue, have five sons: Guy, Jr. pastor of First, Covington, La.; Larry, minister of music and education, First, Camden, Ala.; Jim, pastor of Grace Memorial, Gulfport; Tommy, student at Delta State and employed with the Greenwood Police Dept.; and Randy, U. S. Army, Carson City, Colo.

Films produced by Gospel Films, Inc. of Muskegon, Michigan, have been translated into more than 40 languages and are being shown in 161 countries and territories by workers representing 321 missionary organizations.

#### Revival Results

Toxish Church, Pontotoc: May 29-June 1; youth-led; two professions of faith; several commitments; Joyce Pannell, song leader; Rita Pannell, pianist; Joey McKnight, organist; Rev. Joe Holcomb, pastor; Larry Hendricks, now summer youth director at First Church, Laurel, Maryland, evangelist.

#### Tip To Motorists

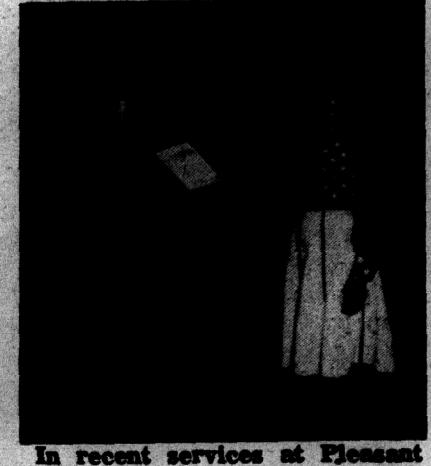
Emergency hospitals are filled with pedestrians and motorists who had the right of way.

#### Balance Wheel

There is no progress without confidence, and there can be no confidence without faith.



Immanuel Church, Greenwood, has honored their pastor, Rev. M. C. Johnson, by presenting him with an all-expense paid tour of the Holy Land. Mr. Johnson left June 9 for a 15 day tour which will include a Land, Rome, Jordan, Israel and other places of special interest to a minister. For Immanuel, it was a special way of showing appreciation for their pastor. The project was an idea of the Baptist Men who invited churchwide participation. L. V. Robertson, Jr., was chairman of the committee.



In recent services at Pleasant Grove Church in Lincoln County, Carey Paul Jackson presented the Church 30 new Baptist Hymnals which included the Organist, Pianist, and Pulpit Editions. Shown above is Mrs. Johnnie Jackson, church music director, making the presentation to Rev. Gerald Aultman, pastor.

ing to teach, to teachers applying for certification or licensure, and to those seeking positions in school systems which encourage or require the NTE. The designation of Mississippi College as a test center for these examinations will give prospective teachers in this area an opportunity to compare their performance on the examinations with candidates who take the tests, Professor Taylor said.

Bulletins of Information describing registration procedures and Registration Forms may be obtained from Mississippi College or directly from the National Teacher Examinations, Education Testing Service, Box 911, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

#### S. S. Lesson - - -

(Continued From Page 7)

Moreover, He guides the course of history and controls the destiny of men. The message closed with a reminder of God's goodness and grace. Even then they were hardly able to keep the crowd from sacrificing to them.

A group of hostile Jews who had purposely followed the missionaries succeeded in turning the minds of the people against Paul. The people stoned him and cast him out of the city for dead. The recovery of Paul was miraculous.

The result of the first missionary outreach program was good. The gospel had been preached in three provinces. At least four churches had been founded. Paul became the leader of the team for missions. New converts were added to the kingdom and the missionaries took great care to preserve the fruit of their work by encouragement, instruction and organization.

## Off The Record

The president of the men's club was addressing the assembled membership. "In most organizations," he said, "half the members do all the work, and the other half do nothing. I am happy to say that in this club, we do the exact opposite." — Capper's Weekly.

A father returned home from his usual day at work in the fields and found his small son sitting on the front steps looking unhappy.

"What's wrong, son?" he asked.

"Just between you and me," the lad replied confidentially, "I simply can't get along with your wife."

The actor pleaded with the agent to at least see his act. "My act is different. Look—I fly." Then he lifted his arms and flew around the room and landed on the desk.

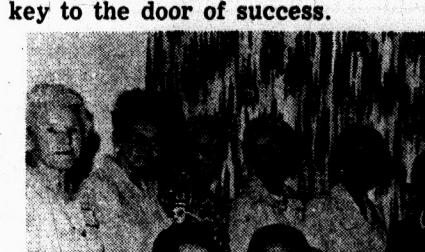
"Okay," said the agent. "So you can imitate birds. What else can you do?" — American Opinion.

Strangle - Hold

Don't get too comfortable with your good habits — it allows bad habits to sneak in unnoticed.

#### The Pay-Off

Be a specialist in your work or profession — it's the master key to the door of success.



#### Butch's Mother Goes To England, Is Ambassador Of Good Will

By Connie Richardson

Route 1, Shaw, Ms.

Butch's dream that I would visit England on Mother's Day came true, and I must thank every one who made the trip possible.

(Note: Many Baptist Record readers responded to a short note from Butch Richardson of Shaw last year, then age 10, saying that he would love to help send his mother to her native England as a Mother's Day gift. She has not been there in many years. Mrs. Richardson received an avalanche of green stamps which she added to those she was saving, to pay for the trip.)

I left for England May 1, by way of Greenville and Memphis. My flight was supposed to leave Chicago at 6, but didn't leave until 11 p.m. After a flight of 7½ hours, I landed in London. Then after another lay-over, I arrived in Manchester at 4 p.m. Although I was very tired, I enjoyed every minute of flying and I soon made many friends. Most of them, like me, were going home to visit loved ones.

My sister, niece and her husband and little girls were there to meet me, and what a joyful reunion we had! Tears were everywhere. We left Manchester by car and went sightseeing and visited some of the lovely countryside that England is famous for. The three weeks went by very quickly. I had lots of relatives to visit,

besides old friends and besides visiting some of the beaches and ports. It was very chilly and rained most of the first two weeks.

Mother's Day, I visited my cousin whom I hadn't seen for 30 years. What a happy day that was! Late that evening I went to call upon my friend's sister who lives in Warrington, and brought greetings from America. Most of the people were very interested in how I got the money to make the visit. They couldn't and wouldn't believe that people would open their hearts to help anyone. But I took the letters and clippings with me to show them that people in the USA would help anyone. All they needed was a chance. I can tell you it brought tears to their eyes, not only because of the goodness of people, but because of the love that God has for me. Without God's help, none of this would have happened.

I had a wonderful time and I am glad to be back home among my own kind of people. Much as I love England and my family, I think America is the greatest! The people are very warm, and unselfish. What more can I ask for? Once again, a great big thank you to all. God bless each of you in a very special way and if at any time I can be of help to another, please call on me.

(By the way, it took 308 books of stamps; the fare was \$604.)

#### Class Of 1925 Holds Reunion

William Carey College was the setting on May 17, for the 50th anniversary gathering of the alumnae of Mississippi Woman's College, the forerunner of Carey. Fifteen members of the class of 1925 were joined by large numbers of other Woman's College alumnae. The 50-year celebrants included above, from left, front row: Mrs. Gladys Johnson Kervin, Mrs. Inez Polk Sparkman, Mrs. Lena Jones Horne, Mrs. Verna May Simmons, and Mrs. Beatrice Harrison Morrison. Second row, from left: Mrs. Elizabeth Gilchrist Davis, Mrs. Ruth Chapman Nichols, Mrs. Wilma Jones Burke, Mrs. Fannie Polk Ramsey, Miss Bernice Simmons, Mrs. Martha Ross Fowler, Mrs. Mary Louise Hays Shackelford, Mrs. Ruby Francis Noble, Mrs. Thelma Inez Harrison Williams, and Mrs. Alma Chancellor Norman.